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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd al-Majid Opens Arab League Council Meeting

NC1209190289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has addressed the opening meeting of the 92d ordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis. The following is the text of the address:

I am glad to be participating in the meetings of the Arab League's 92d ordinary session taking place at the league's temporary headquarters in Tunis. These meetings come in the wake of the new spirit resurrected by the Casablanca summit, which we hope will be a good opening and a blessing to the Arab nation.

On this occasion I am happy to salute Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, my dear brother, for the efforts he made during his chairmanship of your distinguished council in its 91st session. I am also happy to welcome dear brother Yusuf 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, as chairman of the council in its 92d session, and I wish him success.

Egypt has not been absent from the Arab world, nor can it be for a single moment. It also has not ceased to play its role, out of its faith in the extent of Arab nationalism, the gravity of the challenge facing the Arab nation, and the current stage through which we are passing. Egypt is pleased to resume its membership and to assume its historic responsibility. It stresses that it will shoulder these responsibilities in accordance with the Arab League Charter.

Gentlemen, we are living in an age in which several assumptions have changed. The Arab League is required to adopt a course that will enable it to keep pace with this change heralding a new era in international relations. The advanced states have realized the importance of understanding and dialogue. The industrialized countries have moved toward integration in the field of economic activity to serve their economic structure and their peoples' prosperity. The EC states are getting closer to achieving their economic and political unity. Regarding the future, the Arab nation possesses material, human, and scientific resources that enable it to shape its role in a manner that is commensurate with the new developments and that also benefits from them and influences them.

On this occasion, I am pleased to refer to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's speech at the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca in May. I particularly refer to his excellency's new concept of Arab solidarity which conforms with new developments and facts in the Arab homeland and in the world around us. Let us learn from past lessons and experience in which we have paid, and still are paying, with the lives of our sons and our precious resources. This is at a time when all other nations are competing to bring about prosperity for their sons.

Egypt is pleased to perform its full role at this critical stage in Arab history. There is no alternative to joint Arab action which is in line with the fundamental changes in our contemporary world and deals with outstanding, urgent, and potential issues.

It gives us hope that Arab states have started to be aware of this reality, live with it, and benefit from the changes involved in it.

A sign of this awareness is the Arab states' belief in the need to come together and coordinate their stands within the framework of the Arab League Charter. This has culminated in the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, in addition to the Gulf Cooperation Council. All these are initiatives which enrich and bolster joint Arab action vis-a-vis other regional and international groupings.

At this decisive stage, in which joint Arab action is undergoing review, development, and updating, we need to arrive at the best approach to coordination and cooperation among recently established groupings, and between these and the Arab League, which is the ideal framework for any joint Arab action.

We strongly hope that the Arab nation will succeed in overcoming the problems which have obstructed its march for so long.

I can only commend the Arab League members' awareness of the need to adopt a carefully studied scientific approach, and dedicate a large portion of their resources to the process of drawing up a practical policy which can lead to further economic, cultural, and political cooperation in the service of their people.

There are several indications that serious action has already started. I need not elaborate on these. I will only refer to ongoing efforts to study the possibility of upgrading the efficiency and effectiveness of Arab organizations within the Arab League, and to evaluate and develop the functional, financial, and administrative performance of the Arab League General Secretariat.

Your excellencies, this Arab League Council meeting comes after the conclusion of the summit work of the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade. This movement was born during the second half of the 20th century to steer the struggle against colonialism and to put on record the birth of a new era in which all nations would abide by their independent will toward blocs and superpowers and reject submission to international polarization.

The top goal of this summit was to update its objectives commensurate with international changes without relinquishing its basic principles. This summit has succeeded to a great extent in promoting the methods and programs of the movement's work in terms of resolving important

problems and issues and of giving further attention to the vital economic and environmental issues.

Your excellencies, promoting the standard of the Arab citizen is our main issue. It is the one which induces us to endeavor to establish peace and stability so that we can marshal our resources toward achieving socioeconomic development.

While proceeding with our march, we are faced with an insurmountable obstacle represented by the existing disorder in the the world economic structure due to numerous factors that widened the gap between the advanced developed and developing countries. One result of this gap is the increasing burden of the developing countries' debt, which has rendered some of these countries completely helpless to proceed with implementing their development programs. In view of the complication and seriousness of the problem, we found out that the best way to resolve it is to conduct a constructive dialogue between the various parties.

Accordingly, Egypt, in cooperation with India, Senegal, and Venezuela submitted an initiative to the industrial states' summit in Paris in a bid to revive the dialogue between the North and the South in the interest of all parties. The 25th OAU summit has approved the initiative and has authorized President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as the OAU chairman, to hold the necessary international contacts with the hope that the dialogue will pave the way for convening an international conference on debt in accordance with the resolution adopted by the extraordinary African summit held in Cairo in 1987.

On the same grounds, we work for reviving Arab-African cooperation and for enriching Arab-European dialogue, which is based primarily on the parties' belief in the need for cooperation and dialogue in view of the common interests.

We requested that this dialogue include various political, economic, cultural, and social topics so that it can serve the interests of both sides.

In this context, I have to note the European stand on the Palestinian issue. We have to utilize this stand to further bolster dialogue with the Europeans to serve Arab issues.

Similarly, the South-South dialogue is so significant and critical that it should be enriched and strengthened. Here, I would like to note Egyptian efforts to develop and activate the Arab-African dialogue.

Dear brothers, in this context, I can only refer to three issues which occupy every Arab. These are the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, and the prevailing situation between sister Iraq and Iran.

Egypt's endeavors to restore the national rights of the Palestinian people need no reminder, introduction, or reiteration. Our support for the Palestinian people's struggle and for the courageous intifadah [uprising] is at the basis of our unchanged policy.

The constructive and positive stands of the PLO undoubtedly represent a cornerstone in the current developments in the peace march. Regrettably, they were not received by a responsive Israeli stand. Instead, the Israeli Government escalated oppressive operations against the steadfast Palestinians who are trying to restore their natural and legitimate rights to self-determination and independence.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is now working to give an impetus to the peace process and to mobilize international efforts to hold the international peace conference so that a just and lasting peace can be established.

As for the crisis which is grinding our fraternal Lebanese people, we hope the Arab tripartite committee which has announced the resumption of its efforts will succeed in finding a solution to help restore a normal political and parliamentary life in Lebanon.

We are convinced that a solution for the Lebanese problem requires putting an absolute end to foreign intervention. We demand the termination of the Israeli occupation and all non-Lebanese presences, regardless of their form or source.

Halting the war between Iraq and Iran was one of the positive developments in the international arena. We hope this situation will develop into a lasting peace in the region, particularly since sister Iraq has repeatedly shown its true intentions to establish a just and lasting peace based on good-neighborliness, respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the region's countries, and the full and accurate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The Arab world and the Arab League felt strong tremors in the past decade. This resulted in situations which are still waiting for a solution. Now that our League embraces all and is embarking on realistic and practical steps to benefit from past lessons in drawing up a modern policy to enrich our Arab world, the Almighty will crown our efforts with success, since our primary goal is to bolster joint Arab action in the service of the Arab citizen. In this we are committed to the Arab League charter in the new spirit prevailing in our Arab world.

Dear brothers, the Arab League Council agenda includes a multitude of subjects which ultimately emphasize the inevitability of Arab solidarity in relation to the outside world.

As we register our deep appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Arab League secretary general and the working team in preparing the agenda, we hope we will come out of these meetings stronger and more determined to realize the goals of our Arab nation.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to us by sister Tunisia in its new era. We wish the Tunisian people further progress

and prosperity. May the Almighty guide your steps to success. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Reaction to Mubarak's 10-Point Proposal

PLO Spokesman Rejects Plan

LD1309091989 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0831 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 Sep (KUNA)—Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that at a meeting held yesterday in Tunis chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, the committee rejected the 10-point plan presented by Egyptian President Mubarak with regard to holding elections in the occupied territories.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA newspaper published today, he added that the committee considered these points "a deviation from the Palestinian peace initiative ratified by the recent Casablanca summit." [passage omitted]

In his statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper, Mr Al-Najjab said: "Egypt did not consult the PLO about these points, which neither mentioned the PLO nor the Palestinian people's right to self-determination." [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid, Qaddumi Comment

NC1309162489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 13 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council will conclude its sessions here on 14 September by issuing a decision backing the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and denouncing Israel's repression and terrorism inside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Today's session extensively debated developments in the Palestinian issue. Faruq Qaddumi [PLO Political Department Head] delivered a statement on these developments and the 10 points that Egypt has submitted to Israel. Qaddumi said that these 10 points are not an initiative but are questions in which Egypt has asked Israel to clarify Shamir's plan for holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Qaddumi also dealt with the Palestinian peace initiative, the PLO's intensive efforts on the international level, and the great international support for the Palestinian initiative.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, spoke at the session and clarified Egypt's stand on developments in the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt is very keen on stressing its statement that the PLO has taken a positive stand and that action must be taken to exploit these initiatives, give impetus to the peace process, and restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He added that he wanted to clarify the background of the 10 points that Egypt has presented which were published in the press. He said that Egypt asked for these 10 points in order to know Israel's views and whether the elections will lead to the fulfillment of the points' objective, namely self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that these points were prepared following President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington and after U.S. President George Bush declared in April his country's stand based on the following four points: the Palestinian people's political rights, Israel's security, ending the Israeli occupation, and exchanging land for peace. He added: This stand must be exploited, particularly as elections cannot be opposed because they underline democracy. What is meant by the elections which Shamir announced in April has to be defined. This is why Egypt presented its 10 questions which pinpointed the points to which Israel must reply. The Egyptian foreign minister reiterated that he wants to stress that Egypt is keen on supporting the Palestinian issue and that it hails the PLO's committed stands and backs the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He also stressed that Egypt is acting in consultation and coordination with the PLO and that there must be coordination at the new UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, 'Abd-al-Majid on Plan

NC1309193189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (MENA)—This afternoon Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who leads Egypt's delegation to the Arab League Council's meetings in Tunis.

'Arafat told Egyptian journalists that his meeting with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid is part of the continuous Egyptian-Palestinian meetings, the last of which was the good meeting held with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Cairo 2 days ago. He added that the discussion during the meeting revolved around the outcome of the nonaligned summit in Belgrade, with emphasis on the Middle East issue, the Palestinian problem, and the future of and challenges facing the Movement in the era of international detente. President 'Arafat went on to say that the talks also touched on the efforts being made by President Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to give momentum to the peace process and to activiate the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The Palestinian president pointed out that yesterday the Palestinian leadership highly lauded the efforts being made by President Mubarak and the Egyptian leadership with the U.S. Administration and on various international levels to activate the dialogue and propel the Middle East peace process.

In response to a question about the 10 points that Egypt submitted to Israel, 'Arafat said that this issue was among the topics discussed with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid.

Asked about the possibility of forming a joint Egyptian-Palestinian delegation for holding talks about regional peace, the Palestinian president said that there are praiseworthy efforts being exerted by Egypt in this direction. He added that he discussed these efforts during the PLO Executive Committee meeting last night, noting that Egypt and other Arab brothers are carrying out endeavors that will hopefully produce the desired results as soon as possible, particularly during President Mubarak's visits to the United States and Europe at the end of this month.

Asked if he has asked for an entry visa to New York, 'Arafat said: I have not yet requested a visa, and the subject is still under discussion by the Palestinian leadership and Arab brothers.

To a question about the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, 'Arafat said: We have not reached an agreement, and each side has its own stands. However, our brothers in Egypt and some friends are making efforts to eliminate the obstacles. Asked if Cairo will be the venue for this dialogue, 'Arafat said: This is still under discussion; the issue is still merely ideas, and nothing clear has yet been reached.

On whether U.S.-Palestinian contacts are still going on after the fourth round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue held on 8 June, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian-U.S. contacts are continuing whether directly or through our brothers in Egypt. He added that the dialogue has not been suspended, and our brothers' efforts are continuing. He also said: We are keen on maintaining the dialogue as much as the Americans are, as was stated by the official U.S. spokesman.

Iraq Alleges 'Collusion' Between Syria, Iran

JN1309200589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi delegation participating in the meetings of the 92d session of the Arab League Council today submitted an irrefutable document incriminating the Syrian regime, which is violating the Arab consensus based on the permanent charter of the Arab League. The Iraqi delegation distributed a Syrian media document which affirmed that Syria brazenly boasts of its alliance with Iran—something that contravenes the Arab League Charter, which bans the forging of any alliances with states that harbor enmity toward the Arab nation.

An INA correspondent in Tunis has learned that the document unmistakably reveals that the Hafiz al-Asad regime has gone to excess in its collusion with the enemies of the Arab nation through coordinating the implementation of conspiracies that pose threats to the Arab existence and foment chaos, terrorism, and destruction in Lebanese territory.

On 16 August, the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN had banners and captions on its front page blessing the Syrian and Iranian regimes for their implementation of an anti-Arab Zionist plot in Lebanon and for trying to carry out this plot in other parts of the Arab homeland.

Condemns Syria, Iran Regimes

JN1309153089 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, Sep 13, INA—Chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the 92d session of the Arab League Council Sa'd Qasim Hammudi condemned the Syrian and Iranian regimes' alliance against the legitimate and constitutional Lebanese Government, describing it as a flagrant breach to the Arab League Charter and bases of the inter-Arab relations.

Mr Hammudi reminded [as received] the report of the tripartite committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis in which it condemned the Syrian regime, as being the main obstacle a head [as received] any Arab solution for the Lebanese problem.

It is to be recalled that Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz sent a letter to the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in which he denounced the Syrian-Iranian alliance aiming at occupying Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Syrian regime delegation failed in yesterday's session to introduce amendments on a draft resolution adopted by the Arab League Council, dealing with the situation between Iraq and Iran.

Arab League Council Political Committee Meets

LD1309163989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Arab League Council has resumed the proceedings of its second session in Tunis by holding a meeting of the Political Committee. The committee examined topics of the Arab-European dialogue and the Israeli nuclear threat.

Tripartite Committee Ministers Meet in Jeddah

NC1309195489 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sept 13 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria met here Wednesday to discuss ways of reactivating a three-nation peace mission on strife-torn Lebanon, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Abdellatif Filali of Morocco, Boualem Bessaieh of Algeria, and Saudi Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal belong to a three-nation Arab League committee on Lebanon that is chaired by the leaders of all three countries.

The three-nation committee "is willing to cross over new stages in order to solve the Lebanese crisis," Mr Filali said on his arrival here earlier Wednesday evening.

The SAUDI PRESS AGENCY said the ministers would seek overnight ways of resuming the committee's work on Lebanon, where troops loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn are locked in battle with Syrian soldiers and their Lebanese allies.

King Fahd, who along with King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria chair this committee, has expressed optimism and said the circumstances for the pursuit of its efforts were "encouraging." [passage omitted]

Ministers Discuss Plans

LD1309210389 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Sep (SPA)—The Arab Tripartite Committee foreign ministers charged with finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis held a meeting in Jeddah this evening to discuss the committee's program of moves to restore peace to fraternal Lebanon.

The meeting, held in the conference hall here was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Dr Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh.

The Moroccan and Algerian ministers arrived here earlier today to attend the meetings of the Arab Tripartite Committee formed at the last Arab summit conference held in Morocco last May. The committee is expected to make a full assessment of the current situation in Lebanon and to look into the possiblity of a diplomatic move to find a way out of the Lebanese impasse at a time when the committee enjoys a great deal of Arab, regional, and international support.

At the end of its meetings, the committee will submit a comprehensive report to the leaders of the committee: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco, and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.

Committee Ends First Session

LD1409091189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis ended the first session of their meeting last night. Sources close to the meeting reported that the foreign ministers of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria discussed a 4-point peace plan aimed at ending the war in Beirut between the Syrian forces and their Lebanese allies on one side, and General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, and his Christian allies on the other side. The sources pointed out that the peace plan stipulates four consecutive stages: a cease-fire throughout Lebanon; the lifting of the maritime and land blockade; the opening of Beirut airport; and an invitation to members of the Lebanese Parliament to meet outside Beirut to draw up a charter for political reforms which will be followed by the election of a head of state.

The same sources added that the plan which is being examined by the three foreign ministers also stipulates setting up a high-level Arab committee to monitor the cease-fire and to ensure that weapons do not reach the parties to the conflict.

The foreign ministers will resume their examination of the plan later today.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Tripoli

LD1409084189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Palestinian head of state, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli heading a delegation including Hani al-Hasan, Ha'il 'Abd al-Hamid, and Abu al-Tayib, members of the Fatah Central Committee. During the visit, the Palestinian delegation will hold talks with a number of Libyan officials.

'Arafat Speech Marks 22d Month of Uprising

JN1209200889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 11 Sep 89 p 16

["Text" of message by "Palestinian President" Yasir 'Arafat on the 22d month of the Palestinian uprising; date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such days (for varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turns: That God may know that those believe, and that He may take to Himself from your ranks martyr-witnesses (to truth). And God loveth not those who do wrong. [Koranic verses].

O the great massses of our Palestinian people, O the epic of the brave intifadah [uprising] on the soil of the homeland, O steadfast heroes in the camps and on the borders of the homeland, O strugglers in every field of struggle inside and outside the beloved homeland, victory is yours, as you are making your dear sacrifices on the path of national independence. Freedom and victory are yours as you daily create events of unique heroism and distinguished experience for your giant intifadah, which has occupied its lofty peak since its first waves in the history of mankind as a major landmark and a new contribution to the experience of peoples struggling against the forces of colonialism, Zionism, racism, coercion, and injustice.

O women of my country; O heroes of my country; O brave and heroic youths and men of my country; you continue the march with more resolution and stronger

will as you are entering the 22d month of the sacred stones intifadah. Despite all repressive and terrorist attempts and despite the great sacrifices, you have continued—with legendary courage—to raise the banner of resistance. And, with your stones, you are pounding the structure of the transient occupation and building our forthcoming Palestinian state, making the certain date of independence and freedom nearer for our people. Who in the world, beloved ones, could have believed or predicted—in those days of January 1987—that the intifadah would continue and escalate? Who in the world was ready to admit our people's great ability to continue the march to achieve the goal which we will not relinquish, the goal of independence, freedom, and victory. Many people refused to believe our signs. Many people were not interested in our talk about the escalating volcano inside and outside the homeland. Many people were also not interested in our talk about the gathering storm throughout the region. Then the intifadah came, the intifadah came so that we could storm the walls of the world's conscience. Its news also reached every house around the world and our people's cause has recorded its shining and prominent regional and international presence. The phoenix has set out each day to occupy new positions, which would not have existed without the great sacrifices and the procession of martyrs who fill the path of heroism and glory—the path of the dear sons and righteous beloved ones. This is in addition to the sacrifices and heroism of our wounded, prisoners, and detainees that emerged through this mammoth popular momentum of the great people of the intifadah, through their inspiring legendary steadfastness, and through this firmness and resistance of our heroes in the positions of combat and conflict.

Brothers: The nonaligned summit took place only yesterday. This is the largest regional grouping in the world. It embraced the cause of our people. The glow of the intifadah illuminated the summit halls in Belgrade, the capital of the fraternal SFRY. The presence and influence of the intifadah was conspicuous in the summit resolutions which restored the essence of the Nonaligned Movement as a movement which expresses the will of the militant people and vehemently condemns racism, Zionism, and their practices. It affirmed, brothers, total support for our people's just cause through their strong resolutions and the committed revolutionary stand of those friends who forcefully championed the Palestinian right, the Palestinian masses' intifadah, and the independent Palestinian state, thereby adding a new revolutionary world momentum to our revolution and to our march which will certainly triumph, God willing.

O kinfolks, O beloved ones: With this escalating momentum of the intifadah—O brothers and heroes—with this legendary steadfastness of the heroes in the positions of combat and confrontation and with this ever-escalating international support we pursue our march and our revolutionary move. With them, we confront our confrontation and pursue the march and the revolution, destroying all conspiracies with which they seek to bypass our people's just cause. Through these conspiracies, they seek to bypass the difficult Palestinian factor in the Middle East equation. There will be no solution, peace, or stability in this region without the acknowledgment of our national, inalienable rights.

On these firm and strong bases we wage our political battle in all local and international forums, including our dialogue with the U.S. Administration. Our people and revolutionaries daily prove to them the impossibility of curbing this revolution except in the right revolutionary direction, the impossibility of separating the people and their revolution, and the impossibility of separating the masses of our people in the occupied territories and outside it.

Everyone will find out that the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region is to adopt the Palestinian peace plan—the peace of the strong, the peace of the brave, the peace that we will establish on our land, and not a capitulation that they will impose on us.

The masses of the blessed intifadah were affirming, every moment and in every way before the whole world, that whoever for one moment thinks of the possibility of peddling the settlement project, which does not provide for our people's firm and national rights, is dreaming and cannot read the revolutionary reality or know the revolutionary will of our people. They do not know how to observe the current course of history flowing to the delta of liberty and independence.

They are still haunted by the ghosts and delusions of the old eras of occupation, control, and expansion. These delusions are extinct and the blessed stones of our women, children, and men are now declaring the end of these extinct delusions. Nay, this forces many of these deluded to recognize the impossibility of torpedoing the unity of the Palestinian stand which manifests a unique example of the revolutionary world march through creating splits and divisions in its ranks, casting doubts, or liquidation. This is a great revolutionary example of unity and revolutionary cohesion.

O masses of the blessed intifadah: During the past few weeks, you have been and still are waging with unique courage an important and dangerous battle to impose the magnetic cards on our heroic workers in Gaza Strip. You have recorded through your steadfastness and determination this iron will, the true revolutionary loftiness, and great devotion. But give them preference over themselves, even though poverty was their (own lot). [Koranic verse].

It was a new and basic round of defiance in the face of the oppressive occupation to confront the conspiracy of blackmail, starvation, terrorism, and repression all of which were shattered before this solid determination, deep conviction, and strong will.

In this discipline, stemming from the conscience and deep belief which distinguishes our masses' struggle in

their response and adherence to the calls of the Unified National Leadership, Qawim ['Arafat's acronym for Unified National Leadership], and entrenching the pillars of the blessed intifadah—continuing until defeating the loathed Zionist occupation. If ye will aid (the cause of) God He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

O masses of the blessed intifadah; O heroes of the stones and songs; O courageous strike forces; O you steadfast people in every location: The fascist occupation have been trying—since the outbreak of the intifadah—to impose a media blackout on the intifadah activities to prevent the arrival of your brave voice to world conscience and to prevent the exposure of their racist crimes and crazy terrorism. However, despite all their repressive measures, the Palestinian blood has infiltrated the siege while the Palestinian shout reached the heart and conscience of the world.

You, courageous heroes, knew that confronting the campaigns of siege and news blackout will escalate the defiance and steadfastnes and with more jihad and struggle that are entrenched on the ground in the form of daily effective blows which had their effect in shaking and shattering the authority and might of the enemy. The power of the people, the power of the intifadah, and the power of revolution, which has been entrenched by Qawim, will emerge along with our broad, believing masses, the effectiveness of the popular committees, and the activities of the strike forces. This power has also been entrenched by this accurate popular organization that has gathered all factions of our people and forces in the crucible of a firm national unity to entrench the foundations of national independece. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God truly loves those who fight in his cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse].

Hence, my brothers, your boycott of Israeli goods has succeeded, and your organized strikes have affected labor in Israeli concerns and the enemy's labor activity and economy. The national agricultural, industrial, and vocational projects have succeeded in supporting the national and local production and in bolstering the home economy. Therefore, we have to work actively and confidently to promote national institutions and all their projects, to support national production, and to boost family economy. We should also work toward expanding the activity of mass institutions, specialized committees, popular education, national media, and others. In addition, we should concentrate on mass education and establishing well-being committees to solve the problems of peoples, and there are many problems.

Revolutionary discipline should also be practiced to prevent the negative aspects and crush deviations, because the enemy will try to push his secret agents among us to intensify these negative points and deviations in order to make people hate the march and to distract them from their blessed intifadah. So, you are urged to show more and more revolutionary discipline, more and more fight against anarchy, and more and more serious work to end the negative aspects and increase the positive ones.

No revolution can emerge victorious unless supported by its masses, and no militant march can continue without sound revolutionary discipline. It cannot continue without bolstering the unity of its ranks, commitment to the calls of the Unified National Leadership, supporting the structure of the popular committees, and firmly confronting all attempts to create divisions, especially in the way of dealing with the sons of our people who lost their way and fell in the trap of the enemy. We should push them toward repentance, first, second, and third; "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." Otherwise we will fall in the trap that our enemy is making for us, as happened to the revolution of 1936. I therefore appeal to you to commit yourselves to this fraternal and revolutionary policy; "Strong against unbelievers, (but) compassionate among each other" [part of Koranic verse]. I also appeal to you to be alert against falsehoods against the march of the intifadah and the discipline of the masses, which make a unified whole. Hence came the orientation not to issue statements in the names of the various frameworks of the intifadah and its unified strike force. This was a clear reference to the statements issued to disintegrate and undermine the firmness of the intifadah and its unified strike forces, which are remote from organizational bragging and nonsense. We all have the heart of one man. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our Lord, decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide. [Koranic verse]

We realize, my beloved brothers, that this great revolutionary achievement, which is daily being entrenched on the ground, exasperates the facist occupiers, who fully understand its significance and essence. They, therefore, intensify their terrorist campaigns and attempts to infiltrate our ranks, confuse our minds, and undermine our unity. They declare the war of murder in cold blood; they also declare the war of starvation, blockade, and detention in an unsuccessful attempt to crush the blessed intifadah. "Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest (it)." [Koranic verse]

By this, they prove their failure to learn the lesson and absorb the bright fact. This intifadah will continue, continue, with God's help, despite all difficulties, wave after wave, until the hateful Israeli occupation of our land and sacred places is ended. There are endless queues of heroes proceeding one after the other to receive the banner whenever a struggler falls or another is imprisoned in occupation jails.

O courageous people of the intifadah, O hero strugglers of the Unified National Leadership, popular committees, and strike force. O strugglers of mass institutions—women, youths, students, workers, peasants, professionals, vocationalists, academicians, landowners,

farmers, and, especialy, the cubs of the revolution; O captive heroes, makers of the epic of steadfastness in prisons; our valiant wounded, who lift the banners of triumph over your wounds; O steadfast people in all positions of struggle in the homeland and abroad; O masses of the great Arab nation: Our intifadah today enters its 22d month with full confidence in the inevitability of victory, God willing. Freedom has never been so near and within reach as it seems to us now. It needs the efforts of friends, support of brothers, and sacrifices of revolutionaries. After we imposed our existence on the political map, it is inevitable that we impose it on the geographical map. Let us boost the unity of our ranks and the cohesion of our front. Unity, unity among all, among our broad masses, all our organizations—Hamas, Fatah, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Jihad, the communists, the [Palestinian Pop ular] Struggle Front, the Palestinian Front, and all and trade unions, popular forces and the institutions—all united in one framework. Let us affirm strong commitment to the calls of the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah, and escalate the war of the sacred stones with utmost vigor and strength, and let the strike forces escalate their struggle with firmness and solidity against the occupiers, all of whose weapons cannot conceal their political and historical crisis. Your intifadah is continuing until the state is established, and your steadfastness will continue until victory is achieved. The state is within a stone's throw, the victory is coming, and our Palestinian flag will be raised, God willing, over Jerusalem, the capital of our city, the first of the two qiblas [direction in which Muslims position themselves during prayer—Jerusalem and Mecca] and the third sacred shrines, the birthplace of the Messiah and the city to where Prophet Muhammad made his night journey. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: "And another (favor will He bestow, which ye do love—help from God and a speedy victory. So give the glad tidings to the believers." [Koranic verse]

Official on Egyptian Plan, 'Arafat's U.S. Visa

JN1309174289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
12 Sep 89 p 29

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] A high-level Palestinian official has affirmed that the peace plan to be submitted by the PLO during the convening of the new UN General Assembly session will not be new.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad indicated that, following meetings held by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis 2 nights ago under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, which continued for 2 hours after midnight, the new element in the Palestinian plan will concern the implementation mechanism. He added that this plan will be launched in cooperation with the nonaligned states through the nine-member committee formed at the Belgrade summit. He went on to say that the PLO will work to activate the work of the Arab seven-member committee and the 32-state commission formed by the United Nations to secure the adoption of the Palestinian plan and to work to implement this plan.

The Palestinian official denied the rumors circulated to the effect that the PLO will offer concessions and said: "This is entirely incorrect." However, the new thing concerns the implementation mechanism and the Palestinian perspective on Shamir's plan, which calls for the holding of elections in the occupied territories, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad added.

In response to a question on the PLO's stand vis-a-vis the 10-point Egyptian plan and 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad stated that 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak was designed to allow the Palestinian viewpoint to be relayed and also for an exchange of views on the latest developments and international reactions. The Palestinian official voiced the belief that this move partly seeks to apply pressure on the Palestinian leadership in a bid to obscure the Palestinian plan in the international arena and propose alternative plans to make them, rather than the Palestinian plan, topics of debate on the international scene. He affirmed that the PLO adheres to its plan. He also disclosed that a high-level Palestinian delegation will take this plan, which is based on the Palestine National Council resolutions, to the United Nations and that a new peace mechanism will be contained in this plan.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad affirmed that the PLO Executive Committee has numerous comments on the Egyptian plan, which leaves many questions unanswered. Some of the PLO's remarks particularly concern the party addressed by this plan, the PLO's role, and whether or not the elections will be an event leading to other developments. Besides, where is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in this plan?

However, the PLO Executive Committee member voiced no optimism over the possibility of seeing the United States and Israel display positive reactions to the Palestinian plan. He voiced the belief that this will be contrary to the international stand which will be supportive of this plan, particularly as this plan will be submitted in advance to the West European states.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad affirmed that the PLO has not so far made a decision on 'Arafat's heading of the Palestinian delegation to the United Nations. He added that no application for a visa for 'Arafat has been submitted so far. He indicated that the issue is still under discussion with some Arab states and the Nonaligned Movement's member states' bureau. He went on to say that the issue will be settled in light of the information received by the Palestinian leadership.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad indicated that the conferees also discussed the current situation in the Lebanese arena and affirmed that the PLO will work to activate its initiative on this issue.

'Arafat Adviser Reportedly Meets Jewish Officials

NC1309200289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, 13 Sep (MENA)—the Jewish daily bulletin (Jour Juif), in its Thursday Paris editions, reports that an unofficial meeting took place between a number of Jewish European community officials and Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The bulletin points out that this is the first time the Jewish European community has announced frankly that its officials met with a PLO official.

Fatah Provisional Command Rejects Mubarak Plan

JN1309175389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Commenting on Husni Mubarak's initiative to hold elections in the occupied territory, the Provisional Command of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah has issued the following statement:

The Egyptian regime has been playing—for a long time—a very serious role to prepare the atmosphere for peddling the Zionist enemy's schemes, particularly the Shamir plan, which was presented in the first place for one clear purpose: namely, the abortion of our people's glorious intifadah [uprising] inside the occupied homeland.

Hence, Husni Mubarak's recent intiative falls within the framework of the attempts aimed at aborting the intifadah, particularly since it comes at a stage during which the Zionist enemy is trying its utmost to end it, whether through repression and terrorism or through political pressure.

The Mubarak initiative certainly consititutes a real danger to our people's struggle because it enjoys the support and blessing of the renegade course in our Palestinian arena. From the very beginning, the symbols of this course announced their support for this intiative and their readiness to implement it.

We, in the Fatah Movement—out of our commitment to our national and pan-Arab struggle—affirm our condemnation and our rejection of all these suspect initiatives in part and parcel. We call on our masses to be aware and vigilant toward the conspiracies aimed against our struggle in general and our brave intifadah in particular.

We are very confident that our people, who experienced the enemy plots and who rejected and foiled them, will foil the new plot through continuing their glorious intifadah until victory is achieved. This is because they know more than others that the avenue to the liberation of the homeland will not pass through suspect plans, but through continuing the confrontation and challenge regardless of the sacrifices. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Provisional Command of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah

Islamic Hamas Movement Rejects Mubarak Plan

JN1409074889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Islamic Hamas Movement in the occupied territories has rejected the Egyptian president's proposals on elections in the occupied territories. In an English-language statement, Hamas pointed to the danger represented by some Arab countries which work under U.S. instructions to daunt the Palestinian people.

PPSF Rejects Mubarak's 10-Point Peace Plan

NC1109122889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 9

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has announced in Beirut that it rejects Egyptian President Mubarak's 10-point plan to solve the Palestinian issue. PPSF Central Committee member Abu-Khalid al-Shamal said: We reject these proposals and emphasize our principled adherence to the unanimous Palestinian position on the holding of elections in the occupied territories, namely that there will be no elections before the evacuation of the last Zionist soldier from these territories and the acknowledgement of the PLO's full representation of the Palestinian people.

Al-Quds Radio Comments on Egyptian Peace Plan

JN1309150989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 89

["Political Touch" commentary feature: "The Nile Waves Cannot Be Stable"]

[Text] When President Mubarak was asked if there really is an Egyptian plan to mend the rift in the Shamir initiative, he did not deny such a plan. He openly implied that such a plan does exist and that negotiations are underway between the Egyptian Government and the Zionist entity, as well as with the PLO leadership.

Terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir believes that his plan has not yet reached a dead end. Shamir bases this opinion on the existence of the Egyptian plan, which might be considered a new entrance to remove the rust and black dust from the Zionist plan on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Some Arab papers published specific details on the Egyptian plan and said that it is a secret plan based on 10 points. The objective of the plan is to emerge from the dead end which the peace wheel has reached.

The Egyptian peace plan comes at a time when the Zionist plan is torpedoed on the political and economic

levels and at a time when the Shamir government finds that its hands are burning while nobody hurries to save it. It seems that the Camp David regime has become generous and hurried to save Shamir and its entity and to help in removing their distress. The Camp David regime presented 10 points and began to hold negotiations on them with the Zionists and the PLO leadership.

In the new Egyptian plan, there are a number of points that could be discussed with patience and bitterness. There is a point calling on the enemy to withdraw temporarily from the West Bank and Gaza while the elections are being conducted. There is another point calling for international supervision during the elections. There is a third point calling for a phased solution in accordance with autonomy. There is a fourth point affirming that the comprehensive basis of the negotiations are Resolutions 242 and 338 under the slogan Land for Peace. The fifth point calls for associating non-PLO Palestinians. This is in addition to other points that might have some positive elements. However, the presence of the five points we mentioned certainly annuls all the good elements and what we would describe as positive.

The judgment of this plan from an ordinary viewpoint takes place in light of definite constants and bases. The plan does not approach the blessed intifadah [uprising], nor does it speak about the necessity of its role. The plan does not call for a Palestinian state or for including even the representatives of the PLO leadership in any negotiations. The general and specific ceiling of the plan is limited by Resolutions 242 and 338.

Hence, the plan is an improved copy in terms of printing and propagation of the initiative of terrorist Shamir himself. This is in addition to the fact that the Egyptian political author was inspired by all that came in the Camp David accords on self-administration and autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza when he was preparing the points of this plan. On this basis, the Egyptian plan aims at two things:

First, the Egyptian plan aims at revitalizing the Shamir plan, melting the intensive color from its pale face, and causing it to still exist despite the fact that the blessed intifadah has decided on its position from the first moment and has dealt it a blow that finishes it. Second, the plan aims at giving the Zionist enemy extra time to end the intifadah and the popular resistance. And this is not only a Zionist demand, but a plan that is required to protect the Camp David accords and the secret plans of a number of Arab regimes that are afflicted by heart diseases as a result of the fear and anxiety from the escalation of the intifadah and the popular resistance.

The new Egyptian plan cannot bring about peace, as the Egyptian legislature says. The only satisfactory peace can be achieved through the popular resistance that alone can achieve justice, liberate the land, and restore rights.

History has examples as numerous as the Nile waves. No force can make these waves stable, without movement. The revolution of our people in Palestine is the basis of these waves. So, how can they be stable and how cannot they give the color of palms trees to the future?

God is with us, and victory is close. Together on the path of liberating land and man.

Palestinians in Territories on Election Plan

JN1109172589 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Doha, Sept 11 (GNA)—Three leading Palestinian figures in the occupied Arab territories have underlined the Palestinians have adopted a unified position rejecting elections which ignored the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Deposed Mayor of Nablus Bassam al-Shak'a said the public opinion to this effect was clear, referring to the appeals and statements issued by the Uprising Unified Leadership. He said the Palestinian people rejected the elections because Israel will never recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination.

He explained, in an interview with Qatari daily 'AL-SHARQ', that the Palestinian people experienced elections in 1972 and 1976 but Israel was still sticking to the civil administration and its laws, and the aggression and expansionist policy.

Al-Shak'a, who escaped an assassination attempt in 1981, called for the escalation of the uprising and expressed conviction that such struggle would force Israel not only to change its attitude towards the elections, but also to accept the withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Sa'id Kan'an, a businessman in Nablus, said the main objective of the Palestinians was the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

He said the recent Egyptian peace plan could provide ground for adopting a further comprehensive position to achieve a breakthrough in the current deadlock.

Kan'an reaffirmed the commitment of Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories to the PLO resolutions, underling that Israel will not find a substitute leadership to enter into dialogue with.

Meanwhile, Bashir al-Barghuti, a journalist from Ramallah, said that the main issue of the Palestinian people aims at restoring their right to self-determination and all other legitimate rights.

Egypt

PLO Representative on Mubarak's 10-Point Plan

NC1409094189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, has emphasized that coordination and consultation between Egypt and the Palestinian leadership are continuing.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that the uncalled for clamor over the 10 points that Egypt has presented to Israel and over the PLO's acceptance or rejection of these points is groundless. I cannot understand how several parties fell into the traps set by hostile media, he said.

The Palestinian official stated that the Egyptian Government had six questions to ask regarding the elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, and these questions were addressed in the 10 points. He added that the questions had been submitted to Israel by Egypt through diplomatic channels on 21 June and were also relayed to Israel by a U.S. congressman who was visiting Cairo at the time. However, he said, Israel has not yet responded to them. He added that Israel must clarify its position on these questions, which link the elections to an overall settlement in the region.

Regarding the Palestinian reactions, he said they reflect the opinions of the individuals concerned. They do not necessarily constitute the final say in the matter, he declared, adding that a response is being waited for from the United States and Israel to the Egyptian questions.

It is worth noting that the Israeli mini-cabinet, which met under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday, declined to declare Israel's position on the 10 points, claiming that Israel has not received these questions officially.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Exchange Views by Telephone

NC1309180489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tonight. They exchanged views on a number of issues related to the Palestinian cause and the efforts to coordinate stands at the international and Arab level.

Joint Communique Issued After Rwanda Talks

NC1409120689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Rwanda have urged all the parties to the Middle East conflict to contribute positively to the peace process with a view to finding a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement. The two voiced their conviction that convening an international conference for peace under the aegis of the United Nations and in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 represents the best framework for reaching such a settlement. They stressed the need for all the parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO, to attend this conference.

The two sides strongly condemned the racist and inhumane policy pursued by the Pretoria regime, and renewed their unshakable commitment and definite determination to continue their support for the South African people in their struggle against apartheid.

The above came in a joint communique issued today at the conclusion of the meetings of the first session of the Egyptian-Rwandan Joint Committee, which opened on Saturday in Cairo. The communique was signed for Egypt by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and on behalf of Rwanda by Casimir Bizimungu, Rwandan minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

The two countries voiced their full support for the independence of Namibia, in implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978, and called on the signatories to the agreement dated 22 December 1988 to abide by the provisions of this agreement. The two sides renewed their full support for SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] at this fateful phase in its history of national struggle to seek independence and self-determination for the people of Namibia.

Egypt and Rwanda emphasized solidarity with the Government of the People's Republic of Angola in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation, stability, and peace in the country. They also stressed their solidarity with the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique in its efforts for national reconciliation, stability, and peace in the country.

The two sides called on the Governments of Mauritania and Senegal to settle their existing dispute by peaceful means and voiced support for the good offices undertaken by the current OAU Chairman in this respect.

Egypt and Rwanda underlined the need to consolidate solidarity and cooperation among Africans and Arabs. They once again stressed their commitment to promoting the constructive role played by the Nonaligned Movment and reaffirmed their faith in the policy of the movement.

Regarding the initiative proposed by the presidents of Egypt, Sengal, Venezuela, and the Indian prime minister in Paris in July 1989, the two sides reaffirmed its importance and praised the Nonaligned Movement's backing for it, in a bid to start a new round of organized high-level consultations between the advanced states and the developing countries over economic and environmental issues.

Dr Ghali and Minister Bizimungu expressed their satisfaction with the positive results of the Rwandan official's

visit to Egypt. They expressed their confidence that the visit, the meetings of the Joint Committee, and the documents signed between the two countries would make a tangible contribution to promoting cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that an agreement was reached to hold the next round of meetings of the Joint Committee between the two countries in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, in 1991.

Sudanese Energy Minister Departs 14 Sep

NC1409081389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—'Abd-al-Mun'im Khawjali, Sudanese minister of energy and mining, left Cairo for home today after a week-long visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, the Sudanese minister said he and Electricity Minister Eng Mahir Abazah had discussed the integration projects relating to electricity that were proposed in 1984. He added that they had also considered the idea of setting up a power station with a capacity of more than 50,000 megawatts, generating electricity from the waterfalls in Zaire. The main electrical lines of such a station, he added, would pass through Sudan and many African states, and the station could serve all the Mediterranean and North African states. The initial cost of this station would be approximately $25 billion, he pointed out. He noted that Sudanese Finance Minister Sayyid 'Ali Zaki will arrive in Cairo in the next 2 days for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Muhammad al-Razzaz on ways of promoting bilateral relations.

Trade Union Official on Meeting With Al-Asad

NC1309151189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has described President Husni Mubarak as a comrade in arms and said that President Mubarak has true Arab orientations [tawajjuhat]. The Syrian president also stressed that relations between Egypt and Syria are proceeding toward achieving positive pan-Arab results and the desired objective.

This was stated today by Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian General Federation of the Labor Unions. He said that President al-Asad received the Egyptian delegation yesterday in Damascus and asked it to convey his greetings to President Husni Mubarak. Al-'Amawi said that President al-Asad's 2-hour meeting with the Egyptian labor union delegation dealt with the historic relations between the two countries and also the situations in the Arab arena, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Al-'Amawi said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received the delegation for 90 minutes. The delegation also held three working sessions with officials from the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions under 'Izz-al-Din Nasir. Discussions at these meetings dealt with labor and cultural relations and coordinating stands on Arab labor.

Al-'Amawi and his delegation returned to Cairo from Damascus last night at the end of a 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions.

Official on Participation in Damascus Fair

JN0909125089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Sep 89 p 9

[Report by Ra'fat Amin]

[Text] The Egyptian delegation that participated in the Damascus International Fair held from 28 August until 10 September returned to Cairo yesterday. The Cairo fair marked the first time Egypt had taken part in an international fair since 1976.

Hamid 'Atwah, chairman of International Fairs and Markets Authority, said that talks were held between Kamal Hilali, head of the Al-Nasr Export and Transport Company, and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade. They discussed means to bolster bilateral relations. The Syrian side expressed readiness to discuss an increase in bilateral trade exchange as well as the possibility of concluding an equal deal between Egypt and Syria. The two sides reviewed the commodities that can be included in the deal by both countries.

Hamid 'Atwah added that the issue of reopening Egypt's permanent pavilion in Damascus International Fair, which was occupied by Egypt since the unity days between the two countries until 1976, has been discussed. Nazim al-Hafiz, the Damascus International Fair director, agreed that the pavilion be opened as of the next season in preparation for Egypt's regular participation. 'Atwah referred to the hospitality accorded to the Egyptian delegation during its stay in Damascus.

Twenty-one Egyptian companies from the private, public, and investment sectors participated in the fair. They displayed mechanical and metal industries products, ready-made clothes, fabrics, building materials, medicines, chemicals, cosmetics, wooden furniture, and leather, handicraft, and food products.

Arrest Campaign 'Threatening' Citizens

JN0809174589 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Sep 89 pp 1, 10

[By Khalid Muhyi-al-Din]

[Text] What do the regime and the rulers want from Egypt's people, and why is this large-scale, uncontrolled arrest campaign threatening every citizen who criticizes public work, or who is driven by his bad luck to defend his simplest rights?

Why all this brutality in hurting the detained politicians and unionists and humiliating educated people, eminent ulema, productive workers, and honest citizens such as Dr Muhammad al-Sayyid Sa'id, Eng Kamal Khalil, literary critic Ibrahim Fathi, lawyer Ibrahinm Salim, journalist Muhammad al-Zahid, and workers Mustafa Nayid, Sayyid 'Abd-al-Radi, Muhammad Mustafa, and all their colleagues, whose lives are endangered inside prisons and who are humiliated by the representatives of the authority who must protect the lives of these people in accordance with the Constitution and the law?

The answer is clear. We have announced it and we have repeated it for the thousandth time: Egypt's rulers want to continue to rule regardless of the price and at the expense of the misery and hunger of the masses. They adopt polices that lead to the poverty of the majority of the people and to the surge of the prices, while they give facilities and open the door for the prominent capitalists to become richer. When the iron and steel plant workers demand incentives in line with the increase in production—a slogan always repeated by the president—they, in the eyes of the authority, threaten stability and should be disciplined. As a result, the security forces storm the factories to kill, wound scores of people, and arrest hundreds of people. We recall the events that took place in the factories of Asku, al-Mahallat al-Kubra, Karf al-Dawwwar, and others. When some citizens show solidarity with the iron and steel plant workers and expose the government's support for the capitalists as well as the detention crimes and the displacements policy, the regime accuses them of setting up a secret organization urging the toppling of the regime. When some educated people play their natural role in monitoring human rights violations in Egypt through the Human Rights Commission, a legitimate and recognized body, the government fabricates these accusations against them and they are exposed to physical and moral torture.

Matters went so far when members of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party, a legitimate party, were arrested because they were implementing a decision by its leadership to support the iron and steel plant workers. The authorities arrested the members who attended seminars at the party headquarters as well as those who collected signatures calling for the release of the detained workers. In addition to blocking the popular activity of the legitimate parties, the authorities arrested those frequenting the party headquarters and participating in the party's activity. This trend undermines any credibility of the regime's allegations about democracy. The majority of those detained during the iron and steel plant incidents were NPUG Party members, because the NPUG Party decided to shoulder its responsibilities toward these workers and all the Egyptian workers and because the NPUG Party has been calling since its establishment for a just distribution of the country's wealth and for giving the workers a share that suits their role in production and for ending support for major capitalists. A number of the NPUG members are arrested every day because of these positions. The interior minister defends his faulty policies against the workers by claiming that secret organizations are behind the workers' moves.

However, we will not be terrorized or weakened by the wide-scale detention campaign and will not be frightened or forced to abandon our responsibilities by the excessive wave of torture. We are currently experiencing a decisive period in the history of our country and a serious juncture which will have long-term effects on this country, especially since an agreement with the IMF is imminent. The government has accepted the IMF terms and a new rise in prices will take place. Many of the people's gains, which have become entrenched rights for laborers, employees, and peasants, will be liquidated. The government is making preparations for that by terrorizing citizens and apprehending their militant leaders. We are dutybound to continue to articulate our demand that the poor and low-income citizens be safeguarded against skyrocketing prices and that opportunities be provided for the citizens to participate in formulating the government's policies through a genuine democratic system. We will continue to shoulder our responsibilities to expose the growing crimes of torture in the Egyptian prisons, against which a strong world public opinion is being formulated, and demand investigations.

To turn a blind eye toward the current violations of the most basic human rights in Egypt is a crime and constitutes a collusion with those perpetrating these violations. Everyone should work to halt these practices. Nobody can claim now or in the future that he is unaware of what is taking place. This applies to everyone: The president of the Republic, who has received many appeals and cables from many areas throughout the world demanding an investigation into what happened; the prime minister, in whose name arrest warrants are issued in his capacity as the general military ruler; the interior minister, at whose orders these crimes are being committed by employees working under his supervision; the speaker of the People's Assembly, who is constitutionally authorized to monitor the executive organs; and the general prosecution office, whose members enjoy full immunity which enables them to examine what they receive from the security organs; determine the legal situation of defendants as soon as possible; and to inspect prisons to see that they are run in accordance with the law.

The responsibility of the rulers and representatives of various authorities for what happened does not deny the responsibility of political parties, democratic organizations, and professional and trade unions in confronting this malaise. Intellectuals and thinkers should not keep silent, especially since some of their colleagues are paying the price of their insistence on the freedom of thoughts and expression. A word by a prominent writer like Najib Mahfuz, the Nobel Prize winner, will have a

tremendous effect. Words by writers Ahmad Baha'-al-Din, Kamil Zuhayri, Mustafa Amin, Yusuf Idris, Louis 'Awad, and many others will not be less effective.

We call on everyone to shoulder his responsibilty toward exposing the crimes of torture, detentions, and denying the Egyptian citizens their most basic political rights. We call for a large-scale move of solidarity with those imprisoned for their thoughts in Egypt. We extend a hand to everyone regardless of his political stands to take part in this collective action for the sake of which we will open our party's offices. We tell the Egyptian rulers that they are not the first to exercise oppression and open detention camps to prevent the people from demanding their rights. Your end will not differ from that of those who preceded you on this path. Chapters of history are full of rulers who failed to achieve this impossible objective.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Inaugurates New Steel Complex

LD0909205289 Tripoli JANA in English
1655 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Misratah, Al-Fatih [September] 9, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution this morning ianaugurated one of the huge industrial fortresses to be added to the series of civilisational gains realised every day in great Jamahiryah thanks to the great Al-Fatih revolution. It is the iron and steel complex in Misratah. This took place amidst the massive festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

The leader unveiled the plaque for this huge colossal Arab strategic achievement considered one of the biggest of its kind in the Middle East. [passage omited]

Al-Qadhdhafi Opens New Water Pipeline

LD1209220689 Tripoli JANA in English
0853 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Ijdabiya, Al-Fatih [September] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Amidst the festivities commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, a historic event and a great achievement took place yesterday afternoon representing the revolutionary will to overcome backwardness and build a better future for our society.

Amidst massive celebrations, the leader of the revolution pressed yesterday the button of operation in Ijdabiya reservoir heralding the start of the operation of the line connecting Al-Sarir area in the midst of the desert and the town of Ijdabiya. Waters started to overflow from this river—the eighth wonder worldwilde to flow in like a waterfall into the reservoir in this town. [passage ometted]

Present at this historic celebrations was Staff Major 'Abd Al-Salam Ahmad Jalloud. [passage omitted]

Libyan, Romanian Officials Discuss Cooperation

LD0909172889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1539 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bucharest, Al-Fatih [September] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the State Council for Planning in Romania yesterday received the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, who is attending the joint Libyan Arab-Romanian Committee which began its proceedings in Bucharest on Thursday.

The meeting discussed ways to bolster and develop cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and Romania.

On the other hand the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning met on Thursday with the Romanian construction minister.

Sudanese Rebel Chief Sends Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1309112189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1055 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received a message from John Garang. The message includes a detailed plan for a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan, based on ideas of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to create a new, democratic, and revolutionary Sudan without sectarianism, tribalism, and racism.

Delegation Invited To Observe Vietnamese Pullout

LD1009181289 Tripoli JANA in English
1738 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The foreign minister of Cambodia invited a Libyan Arab delegation to monitor the final withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.

This came in a letter sent by the Cambodian minister to the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau and international Cooperation informing him that Vietnam and Cambodia decided to bring forward the final date of the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Cambodia as it will take place during the period 21-26 the instant [this month].

JANA Reports on NAM Final Communique

LD0909164589 Tripoli JANA in English
1420 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Belgrade, Al-Fatih [September] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Internationalist [word indistinct] revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of world revolution, [word indistinct] the non aligned summit conference had effective influence on

the final decision adopted by the movement regarding the important international issues which the leader referred to in his address.

The final communique of the summit included a host of issues which the leader put forward to the summit including reparations on effects of colonialism, American aggression on great Jamahiriyah, coercive measures and economic [word indistinct], making the Mediterranean a place of (?security) and peace, bolstering the role of the [word indistinct] nations, abrogation of the veto privilege and support of the movement for all peoples under colonialism and foreign domination.

Regarding reparations for the effects of colonialism, the final communique of the non aligned summit conference reaffirmed the obligation of colonial powers to shoulder their past and present responsibilities to pay compensation for the effects of colonialism on developing countries which were under their occupation.

The final communique reiterated its condemnation of American aggression on the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. It reaffirmed the adherence of the member countries to past decisions in this regard and reasserted the United Nations' General Assembly Resolution Number 38/41 on the condemnation of American aggression on great Jamahiriyah in 1986.

The communique reaffirmed the right of great Jamahiriyah to compensation for material and human losses resulting from this aggression.

Also the Non Aligned Movement [NAM] issued a resolution expressing appreciation of and welcoming the accord reached between great Jamahiriyah and Chad for a peaceful settlement of the territorial dispute between the two countries. It considered the accord as a positive development. The foreign minister of Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Non Aligned Movement Council of Foreign Ministers, described this event as a victory for the whole Non Aligned Movement and congratulated the two neighbouring countries for this accord. Regarding the Mediterranean security and peace, the final communique reasserted the need to make the Mediterranean as a lake of security peace and cooperation, from conflict and confrontation saying that the security of the Mediterranean is linked to the security of Europe and international peace and security.

The documents of the conference urged the major powers to withdraw their forces from foreign territories, refrain from military exercises near the territories of the Non Aligned Movement countries, remove their military bases from foreign countries and to take the measures which may lead to the dissolution of NATO and Warsaw Pacts.

Regarding the consolidation of the role of the United Nations and its organs to fulfill their responsibilities in solving major issues and reaching consensus in taking decisions with the participation of all members of the international community on equal footing so as to create a new world free from domination and slavery so as for all to enjoy freedom, equality and justice.

Regarding coercive measures and economic siege, the final document called for an end to economic sanctions, coercive measures, the freezing of funds, all forms of economic and political pressures and other discriminatery measures in international relations.

The communique reiterated the support of the member states of the movement to all peoples under colonialism and foreign domination in their struggle for their right to self determination and independence with reference to a number of French, British and American colonies like New Caledonia, Mayotte, the Malagasy Islands, Diego Garcia, the Malvinas, Puerto Rico... etc.

Also the conference approved documents concerning the Palestine issue, Namibia and South Africa.

Regarding the weapons of mass destruction, the final communique called for total nuclear disarmament as a safeguard for the continuation of the survival of mankind.

The communique reaffirmed the determination of the movement to take an effective part in all efforts so as to find successful solutions to world disputes regardless of their historic or modern reasons without allowing foreign forces to impose solution at the expense of the concerned parties. In a direct manner and within this context the Non Aligned Movement expressed its solidarity with all peoples who have not yet achieved their right to self- determination.

The non aligned countries expressed, in the final communique, their desire to find an effective and acceptable solution to the existing international economic (?problems). They asserted their readiness to hold a fruitful dialogue with the developed world on the economic issues which concern the international community as a whole for there is no stability and no better future for the world without lessening the difference in total development.

The communique said that quick development requires remarkable transfer of means to the developing world and finding a lasting and comprehensive solution to external debts of the developing countries, liberation of international trade, encouraging raw material prices and creating firm monetary conditions.

Sudan

Conference Rules Out Meeting SPLA Demands

AB1209195089 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 12 Sep 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's 84-man peace committee, now sitting for its 4th day, has been considering some of the key issues

still standing in the way of a settlement of the southern civil war. They include SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] demands for an end to shari'ah law and to the state of emergency and the release of political prisoners. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Although the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, is not attending the peace conference now in its 4th day, it has dominated many of the sessions. In an apparent reply to the SPLA's demands, the conference's chairman, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, today said none of the SPLA conditions would be fulfilled. Khalifah, who is a member of the ruling 15-man military council, said the government rejects dialogue with preconditions, but he added that if the SPLA came, it would be welcomed. He said the SPLA cannot expect to defeat the gathering either politically or ideologically, but recommendations from the conference would help in the future negotiations with the SPLA.

Several northerners at the conference also thought the SPLA had made a mistake in not coming to Khartoum. One said Khartoum is an extremely important town in Sudan because no government can expect to stay long in power if the population of Khartoum is against it. He said if the SPLA leader, John Garang, wants to be the leader of Sudan, he should first come to Khartoum and win the hearts and minds of the people of the city.

Many speakers from southern Sudan did not, however, see things in quite the same way. One of them said it was unrealistic for practical reasons to expect Garang to come to Khartoum on such short notice. You cannot invite someone like Garang on Wednesday and expect him to come to Khartoum on Saturday, he remarked. Another southerner to cast doubts on the success of the conference was (Angelo Berdah), the former president of the Southern Council, the government of Southern Sudan. He felt the absence of the SPLA means the present conference cannot really bring about peace in Sudan. He said real peace can only come with the full participation and acceptance of the SPLA. [end recording]

Oman

Commerce Minister, Iranian Envoy Review Ties

LD1309132389 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Muscat Mohammad 'Arab discussed mutual trade and economic relations with Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Ibn-'Abdallah al-Ghazali Wednesday.

During the meeting held in the Omani capital the two also exchanged views on the progress made in implementation of a bilateral letter of understanding.

Al-Ghazali is to arrive here next Saturday to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the 15th Tehran International Trade Fair.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Al-Asad's Message 13 Sep

JN1409062889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Aden—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], received a message last night from President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was delivered by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived in Aden from Sanaa yesterday evening after delivering a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Official PDRY source said President al-Asad's message to President al-'Attas deals with the current Arab situation, the Lebanese question, and the importance of supporting the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with resolving the Lebanese problem in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions.

YSP, Iraqi Ba'th Party Hold Talks in Aden

JN1209125589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Aden, 12 Sep (INA)—Party talks between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] delegation currently visiting the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and a Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] delegation began here today.

The ASBP delegation was headed by 'Abd-al-Sattar Farman al-Rawi, member of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the ASBP Regional Command, while the YSP delegation was headed by 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Aylan, deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Aden, 'Abdal-Sattar Farman said that talks during the meeting dealt with the political situation in the Arab arena, especially the situation in Lebanon and the need for a move by the Arab forces to work to halt massacres in Lebanon. Discussions also dealt with the Palestinian question and, particularly, the valiant popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the conferees also discussed means to promote and expand relations of bilateral cooperation between the ASBP and the YSP, indicating that the viewpoints of the two sides were close regarding events in the Lebanese arena.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Receives Message From Senegal's President

LD1109090889 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'ud received at his office in al-Salam Palace yesterday evening, Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall who conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the cabinet, 'Abdallah Tulayhi, the custodian of the two holy mosques' ambassador to Senegal, and the Senegalese ambassador to the kingdom.

Council of Ministers Discusses Egypt, Lebanon

LD1209034989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the national guard, chaired the session held by the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 11 September, at the al-Salam Palace in the city of Jeddah.

After the session, His Excellency, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA:

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, summed up the nature of the talks held and the agreements reached between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt during the meeting of the joint Saudi-Egyptian committee that was held in Cairo during the last 2 days. In this respect, he pointed to the strength of the ties and the depth of the relationship between the two sisterly countries which, in reality, represent a sound basis for the expected strong cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

The information minister added:

After that, the council reviewed the summaries of political and information reports which contain the most important events and political, security, and economic developments in the arena of the region, foremost among which is the Lebanese issue. Regarding this, Minister al-Sha'ir said: The council expressed its deep satisfaction

with the pioneering steps taken by the higher Arab tripartite committee, steps that are manifested in what was announced by the committee of foreign ministers of the countries belonging to the committee concerning the specification of a date for its meeting the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, in the city of Jeddah, in order to evaluate the circumstances and stances that followed the issuance of its previous statement as part of the efforts being made to save the situation in Lebanon.

The council considered this good initiative on the part of the higher tripartite Arab committee as a key for new hope for the sons of the Lebanese people, and looked forward to the cooperation of all the parties concerned with the Lebanese issue when the committee resumes its work. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Syrian Vice President Khaddam Ends Visit

JN1309201589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Syrian Vice President brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Sanaa this morning, concluding a 2-day visit to our country. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SABA', brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam expressed deep satisfaction with the results of his talks with the brother leader President and General Secretary Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and brother prime minister and the Standing Committee member on the issues of common concern, headed by Arab issues and the means of improving the climate of Arab action, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the situation in Lebanon.

The Syrian vice president said: The talks were valuable. We reached common conclusions on a variety of issues. I was asked by brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to communicate a message to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad concerning Arab situation on the one hand, and bolstering bilateral relations on the other.

Answering a question on the work of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon and what Syria can do to support the committee, brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said: While the committee has resumed work or, as far as I know, is about to make a decision to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions, we cannot say that the committee has failed in the past. We must all help the committee to carry out these resolutions, especially since they constitute an acceptable and objective framework to solve the Lebanese problem. They also constitute a [word indistinct] framework of accord among the Lebanese people since the Lebanese themselves must reach agreement to help all of us.

On whether there are developments to ensure the success of the tripartite committee's mission, the Syrian vice president said: The Arab summit made a decision and laid down principles to solve the Lebanese crisis [words indistinct]. It is in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab nation to end this crisis. As long as there is a Lebanese and an Arab interest in ending this crisis and realizing a national accord in Lebanon, optimism should prevail.

President Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Meeting

JN1309120489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1127 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting for a number of Revolution Command Council [RCC] members and members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

During the meeting, a number of Arab issues were discussed.

SRV's Vo Chi Cong Concludes Visit to Baghdad

Vo Chi Cong Given Send-Off

JN1309134189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Vietnamese State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong left Baghdad this morning following a 4-day visit to Iraq.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn earlier called on Chairman Vo Chi Cong at his place of residence, where he gave the Vietnamese guest a souvenir; namely, a rifle made from a weapon used by martyrs and coated with gold that had been donated by the praiseworthy female Iraqi.

Then, his excellency the president escorted his guest in an official motorcade from the latter's place of residence to the airport, where the guest was accorded an official send-off ceremony. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those who saw the guest off. After the guest shook hands with those who came to see him off, the members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], cabinet ministers, and the Vietnamese ambassador and embassy staff in Baghdad, his excellency the president, and his guest ascended the honor dais where the Vietnamese and Iraqi national anthems were played. Afterward, the two leaders inspected the guards of honor.

At the ramp, his excellency the leader president shook hands with the members of the delegation accompanying the Vietnamese guest, while the guest president was shaking hands with the senior officials on hand to see him off; namely, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Umid Midhat, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the escort mission assigned for the guest.

Then, his excellency the president hugged his guest, wishing him a safe return to his country.

His Excellency Vietnamese State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong was accompanied by a delegation comprising Nguyen Canh Dinh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and minister of water conservancy; Dinh Nho Liem, member of the CPV Central Committee and first deputy foreign minister; Dinh Van Niem, assistant to the State Council chairman; and the Vietnamese ambassador to Baghdad.

Hanoi Reports on Visit

BK1409013889 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 13—Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and president of the State Council, left Baghdad today concluding his four-day official friendship visit to the Republic of Iraq.

While there, President Vo Chi Cong held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries, discussed measures to raise the efficiency of their bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on other issues of mutual concern.

President Vo Chi Cong welcomed the achievements of the Iraqi people in their national construction and Iraq's support for the national liberation movement, particularly the just struggle of the Palestinian people. He warmly hailed Iraq's efforts and goodwill in solving the Iran-Iraq war by peaceful negotiations and wished that the negotiations would soon bring about a fair and permanent solution in the interests of the two people and of peace, national independence, and development in the gulf, the Middle-East and the world as a whole.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his admiration for the Vietnamese people's anti-imperialist struggle and their achievements in national defence and construction. He highly appreciated Vietnam's decision to withdraw all its volunteer troops from Cambodia by this September and its continuous efforts for a political solution to the Cambodia issue and a peaceful, independent, neutral and nonaligned Cambodia, as well as peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the fine development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and held that the present situation in each country, in the two regions and in the world were favourable for the expansion of those relations.

President Vo Chi Cong paid a floral tribute at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad, visited the ancient city of Babylon and several cultural institutions and scenic places in the Iraqi capital.

Saddam Briefs Newsmen on Talks

JN1309195289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] On the occasion of the end of the visit of Vietnamese State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong, a Vietnamese reporter addressed a question to His Excellency

President Saddam Husayn on his talks with the Vietnamese State Council chairman. His excellency the president answered the question posed by the Vietnamese reporter. Here is a full recording of the question posed and the answer given.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] This is the television station of the SRV. On this occasion of the end of our visit to the Republic of Iraq, we would like to ask you the following question: How would you assess the results of the talks held between your excellency and Vietnamese State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong? Also, what do you have to say about the ties of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Iraq?

[Saddam] You know that the ties of friendship between Vietnam and Iraq are very deep and that they date back to the era of the persistent and continuous Vietnamese resistance and national struggle for independence and unity. Iraq supported and backed the Vietnamese people's struggle. The reference is to the struggle waged against Vietnam's enemies. Thus, bilateral ties were developed and bolstered on the basis of common militant foundations. The visit by his excellency the State Council chairman to Iraq falls within the framework of the development of this relationship between Iraq and Vietnam.

Against the background of these deep and friendly ties and in an atmosphere permeated with affection, an in-depth dialogue was held between my comrades and me on the one hand, and between his excellency the State Council chairman and his comrades on the other. Our views were similar. I would even say that they were identical on many issues. We were acquainted with the Vietnamese experience in the social and economic fields. We also listened with interest to the analyses offered by the State Council chairman on topics pertaining to international relations and the issues of common interest. In addition, we discussed ways to further bolster cooperation, expand bilateral cooperation, and increase the volume of this cooperation. We also agreed on general outlines of this issue. Our relationship will proceed in this direction, God willing.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President.

[Saddam] Thank you. [end recording]

Vietnamese Finance Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN1409063489 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2110 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Mr Hoang Quy, finance minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived in Baghdad this evening heading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Vietnamese minister said he would hold talks with Finance Ministry officials in an effort to promote joint cooperation between the two countries in financial matters.

He was received at the airport by Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar and the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad.

Envoy Delivers Saddam Message for Gorbachev

JN1309152889 Baghdad INA in English
1450 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Moscow, Sept 13, INA—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received a written message President Saddam Husayn [as received] dealing with bilateral relations and current Arab and international conditions.

The message was conveyed by the personal envoy from President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Iraqi foreign undersecretary, during a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze here today.

The Iraqi envoy arrived in Moscow last Monday on a short working visit to the Soviet Union.

Ramadan Receives Mauritian Industry Minister

JN1309113289 Baghdad INA in English
1030 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 13, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, met here today Mr. Clarel Malherbe, industry minister of Mauritius and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, both sides discussed fields of developing and expanding economic, trade and political cooperation between Iraq and Mauritius.

Mr. Ramadan expressed his confidence over the bright future of bilateral relations referring that Iraq external policy would expand its cooperation relations with friendly countries under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

On the other hand, Mr. Malherbe praised the civilizational, constructional and development plans currently implemented in Iraq.

Statement on Internal Security Efforts Released

JN1209161089 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
9 Sep 89 p 8

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior on 8 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Statement by the Ministry of Interior:

My Lord, make this a city of peace. [Koranic verse]

Over the past few days, the city of Baghdad and some governorates have witnessed extensive efforts by the men of the internal security forces, who guard citizens'

security and comfort, in the search for a number of deviants whose wicked and satanic instincts and intentions have prompted them to carry out criminal acts against some citizens' security, property, and comfort.

All these criminals have either been arrested or killed while they were being chased.

While announcing that, we pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn—may God preserve him—that the men of the internal security forces will continue to safeguard citizens' security and comfort and will be ready to exert all efforts to protect citizens and guard their property from any harm. The internal security men will continue to be the swords that cut off the hands of tamperers in order to maintain Iraq's security and peace.

The full details will be declared later through the mass media.

[Signed] The Ministry of Interior

Continued Reaction to Mubarak's 10-Point Plan

'Forum of 4' Debates Plan

TA1309123589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet did not discuss President Mubarak's 10-point plan this morning. The issue, however, was debated in the forum of four ministers [Shamir, Peres, Arens, and Rabin], which failed to reach a decision.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the forum of four will meet again on Friday to discuss the issue further.

At the Inner Cabinet meeting, Minister Moda'i requested that a debate be held, but was told by the prime minister that since Mubarak's initiative has not been officially relayed to Israel, there is nothing to discuss.

Minister David Levi has said that the discussion of the Mubarak initiative by the forum of four ministers this morning constitutes a blatant violation of the government's resolution. According to him, it had been decided that no governmental forum would address any new initiative before at least one Arab element embraces Israel's peace plan.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel, Levi said that the very discussion of the 10-point initiative is an opening for the abandonment of the government initiative. Minister Levi is concerned about the possibility that Israel may unwillingly embark on a process involving Egyptian mediation between Israel and the PLO, despite the fact that the arbitrator's decision has already been agreed with the PLO.

Rabin: Peace Plan Basis for Talks

TA1309180189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Arye Golan and Ze'ev Kohen—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good evening, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Golan] Minister Rabin, do you favor a Cabinet debate on President Mubarak's initiative?

[Rabin] Look, as a member of the forum of four [the other members are Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Peres, and Foreign Minister Arens], i cannot divulge any details of what went on in our deliberations. Yet I can tell you one thing: To the best of my knowledge, none of the four suggests that we discuss Mubarak's 10-point plan either in the forum of four, or in the Inner Cabinet, or in the Cabinet plenum. Moreover, I have just returned from the United States, where I met with the U.S. secretary of state and other people. Not one of them asked me anything about the 10-point plan for the simple reason that everyone knows that the Israeli Cabinet's position—and the basis of our political activity—is the Cabinet's decision on our peace initiative.

[Golan] In other words, you are saying that we must reject President Mubarak's initiative?

[Rabin] Egypt never proposed its 10-point plan to us. To the best of my understanding and knowledge, the United States too has never approached us on this issue. I therefore think that this is all much ado about nothing, because I am not aware that anyone—whether from the party and government partner to which I belong, and certainly not from the other side—has proposed that our peace initiative be replaced by some kind of other policy which is not the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

At the same time, we should be aware of the truth. The peace initiative will succeed or fail—in other words, will be implemented or not implemented—over only one thing, and that is whether we can find an interlocutor, or a partner for a dialogue, from among the inhabitants of the territories, namely from among the Palestinians living in the territories who are the target of the initiative. Consequently, if contacts, deliberations, or discussions are being held currently, they have more to do with questions relating to the possibility or possibilities of meetings between Israelis and Palestinians from the territories. It is clear to everyone that Israel's position in any such meeting, if it should come about, will be based on the Cabinet's peace initiative as decided upon on 14 May.

Naturally, questions will arise as to the venue for such a meeting, if it is held, and what we will demand of the participants on the other side— what they should come with. After all, and this is worth remembering, the essence of the peace initiative is not a rehabilitation program for the refugees, although this in itself is a desirable goal. The main gist and the true test of the initiative is an attempt to begin a process of negotiations between ourselves and representatives of the inhabitants of the territories.

[Golan] But, Minister Rabin, it seems that the government's peace plan is also bogged down. So why not discuss other plans?

[Rabin] At this stage I suggested not digressing by 1 inch. I know of no one—at least not from among the people who conferred today—who suggests that we diverge from the government's peace initiative and everything that is or is not included in it. It therefore seems to me that the entire argument as attributed to ministers, reporters, or others is simply overstated. No one is suggesting that we budge from the Cabinet's peace initiative. I have not heard anyone suggest that a debate be held in any forum on President Mubarak's 10 points. If there is room for deliberations—and perhaps in a day or two we will realize that even this is unjustified—they will

center on the possibility of a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation to implement the Israeli peace initiative.

[Kohen] If things are so simple, as you put them, why was the forum forced to...

[Rabin, interrupting] I am not saying that things are simple. Nonetheless, I believe that the public dispute is not over the main questions—which I cannot, at the moment, detail.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Minister Rabin.

Cabinet Crisis Over Rabin Stand

TA1409080389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Sep 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Ran Dagoni, and Cairo correspondent Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] At the meeting of the "forum of four" yesterday, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin demanded that the United States be informed at once that Israel agrees to allow Palestinians to come to negotiations on the basis of the 10 points raised by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. At the same time, Israel should emphasize that it is sitting at the negotiating table on the basis of the Israeli peace initiative.

This, Minister Rabin's position, which was seconded by Minister Shim'on Peres, came as a surprise to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Until yesterday's session, the two had believed that Minister Rabin leaned toward accepting their position, which rejects any positive reference to the 10 points. Now a situation has been created in which the serious differences of opinion may lead to the dissolution of the Cabinet.

In view of the gravity of the crisis and in the hope of finding a solution by tomorrow, the prime minister asked the "forum of four" not to disclose the deep differences and thus forestall pressure from within which could only exacerbate the crisis and expedite the disbandment of the government. As a result, no other member of the Israeli Cabinet besides the four is aware of just how severe the crisis actually is.

Minister Rabin said that Israel's consent to allow the Palestinians to start negotiations on the basis of Egypt's 10 points does not conflict with Israel's commitment to its own peace initiative. These 10 points may be used as a lever to promote the peace process and to find Palestinian partners for talks with Israel on its peace initiative. He believes this is presently the main goal and sees no other way to create a Palestinian delegation from the territories in a bid to implement the peace initiative. [passage omitted]

'Forum of 4' Supports Rabin

TA1409074889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is initiating a move that will constitute a counterproposal to Mubarak's plan. According to Rabin's plan, which was broached yesterday in the meeting of the forum of four in the Prime Minister's Office, Israel will offer a direct meeting between an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation as a preparatory stage before elections.

Israel will be prepared to hold such a meeting in our region or under U.S. auspices in Washington. It will furthermore be prepared to let Egypt participate in the process. Rabin wants to help promote the new move through meetings he has been holding with Palestinian figures from the territories.

His proposal has already won the support of Prime Minister Shamir, as well as Ministers Peres and Arens. The foreign minister will raise the initiative during his upcoming visit to the United States. Israel will simultaneously transmit the message directly to Palestine leaders in Israel and will suggest that talks be launched at once to promote the election plan, which constitutes the first step in the overall political process.

The Israeli condition for holding the preliminary talks with a Palestinian delegation is that the PLO not participate in them.

Peres Looks Favorably on Plan

TA1309204189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Elimelekh Ram on 13 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ram] Mr Peres, the prime minister said today that in the meeting of the forum of four [Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens] this morning nothing was decided concerning Mubarak's 10-point plan. Can agreement be reached in an additional meeting on Friday?

[Peres] I hope so; this is our aim. I must make this clear: No one is suggesting that we accept Mubarak's 10 points. What is being suggested is that a meeting between us and the Palestinians be held. They will arrive with their points and we with ours.

[Ram] Why do your colleagues in the Cabinet oppose this?

[Peres] First of all, no Cabinet debate has been held yet. Second, you should ask those who state their opposition. It should be understood that Mubarak's 10-point plan basically refers to the elections, meaning, an acceptance

of the issue of elections as an opening for negotiations. I see this, if you will, as progress. I do not see a reason to object to this.

[Ram] Do you not feel isolated in your position after what reportedly took place in today's Cabinet meeting?

[Peres] No. I absolutely do not feel isolated. I know at least one more member of the four who thinks the same way I do, or he thinks like me.

[Ram] This would not be the defense minister, I suppose?

[Peres] You suppose wrong.

[Ram] This is very interesting. Are you saying that the defense minister holds the same opinion you do on the 10-point plan?

[Peres] Again you present the question the wrong way. We do not have to accept the 10-point plan. We should agree that the Palestinians come to meet us based on these points.

[Ram] Do you believe that Mubarak's 10-point plan could defrost the negotiations or the Israeli Government initiative?

[Peres] Yes, this is what I think.

[Ram] How?

[Peres] It will allow for a Palestinian delegation to come forth for a stage of preparatory negotiations on the negotiations. They would still not be negotiations on the plan itself, but rather negotiations on the elections. This is what is probably needed for a Palestinian side to be created. We need a Palestinian side to begin the negotiations.

[Ram] The foreign minister said yesterday that the remarks made last night by the PLO leaders concerning their willingness to meet ministers from the Labor Party actually intend to drive a wedge between the components of the Cabinet. Do you believe that the 10-point affair could be followed by your resignation?

[Peres] I do not want to start issuing threats or drive wedges. I see no wedge driven here. There is a debate on how to prevent the existing peace initiative from sinking into the Middle Eastern depths. I believe that if a certain proposition could create a Palestinian side, even for a preliminary discussion, I would definitely regard it as a constructive contribution to the continuation of the initiative.

Shamir on U.S. Adopting Plan

TA1409054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says emphatically that the Mubarak plan is not on the Israeli agenda. He was speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv last night at the anniversary celebrations of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Chamber of Commerce.

[Begin Shamir recording] Speaking openly, we have not received formally these points and I don't see any reason to say anything about them. [end recording]

At the same time, the prime minister said he knew something of the Egyptian 10 points and was asked for his opinion of them:

[Begin Shamir recording] I know, I know more or less. In my opinion, they cannot help us. [end recording]

The prime minister was also asked to comment on reports that the United States is enthusiastic about the Egyptian plan:

[Begin Shamir recording] I don't know, I don't know about it, and I know that these points have not been adopted by the United States, and they support, until this moment, our peace initiative. I don't think it's stalled. Such a short period is not long enough for convincing people to accept such a proposal for the solution of such a deep and complicated conflict. [end recording]

And finally, Prime Minister Shamir was asked if he is adamantly opposed to discussion of the 10-point plan in the Cabinet:

[Begin Shamir recording] Nobody asked me to discuss it, because it's not on our agenda. [end recording]

Sharon Opposes Debating Plan

TA1409070189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has leveled criticism at the government's willingness to discuss President Mubarak's 10-point plan. The minister added that this attitude will lead us not to peace, but to further concessions.

Interviewed by the Voice of Israel from the United States, where he is visiting, Minister Sharon wondered whether it is possible to expect the United States to support our plan while we ourselves agree to endless changes.

He stressed that as far as he is concerned, only one plan exists—the government plan, including the binding principles attached to it by the Likud.

Israel's Peres, Arens Interviewed on Policy

LD1109110189 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Sep 89

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin; interview with Shim'on Peres, Israeli deputy prime minister and finance minister, and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Yevgeniy Kiselev; date, place not given; Peres and Arens speak in English with simultaneous Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Shishlin] And now, about Israel, or, more precisely, about Israeli politicians:

[Arens] I am very pleased to be given for the first time the opportunity of meeting the television viewers of the USSR.

[Peres] It seems to me that this interview is one more step in the important process of normalization of relations between our countries. [Video shows reporter Yevgeniy Kiselev shown talking alternately to Moshe Arens and Shimon Peres. Peres is captioned: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance of Israel. Arens is captioned: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel. Clips shown at intervals depict the two at meetings.]

[Kiselev] This is how, on the very same day in Jerusalem, just 2 hours apart, two members of Israel's top political leadership started their interviews for Soviet television. Shimon Peres is the leader of the Labor Party, which is a member of the Socialist International, and of the Maraach bloc which it leads, first deputy prime minister and finance minister of Israel. Moshe Arens is one of the leaders of the Likud, the bloc of right-wing parties, and foreign affairs minister of Israel. Two extremes of the political spectrum of the Israeli leadership; fierce opponents; members of the same cabinet of ministers, the coalition government of national unity which has been in power in Israel since 1984, reconciling apparently irreconcilable forces, the long-time antagonists and rivals, Alignment and Likud.

[Peres] We have to coexist for the simple reason that the last elections did not bring victory to either of the two main blocs—one obtained 40 seats, the other 39—and it was impossible to form a one-party government.

[Kiselev] One never ceases to wonder how they manage to avoid the government crisis that is hovering over the horizon the whole time, so sharp are the attacks upon each other by Likud and the Alignment and so diverse their approaches to many key problems of Israeli policy, and primarily the main one of these, the problem of the Palestinians.

[Peres] We decided that for a certain period of time we would, perhaps, be able to cooperate, to be united on something, on the fact, for example, that the Palestinians on the occupied territories should be given the possibility to elect their representatives and that serious talks with them should be started. But we remain divided on the issue of what the essence of the solution of the problem should be.

[Arens] Israel is a tiny country. People in the Soviet Union perhaps do not even realize how small it is, and what's more we are a small country surrounded by hostile neighbors, and surrounded as we are in this way Israel must think about its security, about ensuring that its border is capable of being defended. The territories which you describe as occupied lie at the very heart of Israel and approach the edges of the main cities of Israel. We are now sitting less than kilometers away from those places which you call occupied territories, for we are in Jerusalem, Israel's capital. I think that one can, therefore, understand Israel's concern for problems of its own security and I expect that when the talks begin those Arabs who really do want peace with Israel will also show understanding of our concern for our security.

[Peres] And I consider it will be a terrible mistake if Israel tries to force the Palestinians to remain living under our supremacy against their will. Never in the 4,000 year history of the Jewish people have we exercised dominion over other peoples, and those who have tried to exercise dominion over us have disappeared from history. So why should we copy them?

[Arens] UN Security Council resolution 242 which confirms Israel's right to secure borders, also talks about the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territories occupied during the 6-day war of 1967, but it does not lay down precisely from which territories, and that is not fortuitous. In fact, we have already left most of the territories occupied during the 6-day war—Egyptian territories which we left under a peace treaty with Egypt—and when talks begin we will possibly argue further with the Arabs about what the correct interpretation of Resolution 242 should be, and I believe that we will reach an agreement.

[Peres] I do not believe it is possible. We will not achieve peace even among ourselves if we remain on the occupied territories. The territories are not simply an abstract term; they are inhabited lands now—1.5 million Palestinians live there. Anyone who talks about the territories as though this were an empty place is trying to get away from reality. I have no intention of doing that. We in the Labor Party are willing to return the land in exchange for peace. We are willing to make territorial compromises, not just for the sake of peace but in order to safeguard the democratic character of the Israeli state. Using Soviet terminology, I will quote Mr Gorbachev, who says that ultimately he would like to achieve the demilitarization of interstate relations. Thus, we would like to demilitarize our relations with the Arabs. And if I may use another of your popular expressions, to democratize the resolution of the problem.

[Kiselev] And so there are two different approaches, two poles of opinion in the government coalition, on the

right the Likud and on the left the Alignment. Nevertheless, one should not overstate the acuteness of these differences, especially in view of the fact that they become noticeably smoothed over when the talk turns to the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, which, as we know, enjoys the support of a majority of the world community, and to the possibility of Israel's entering into a direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

[Arens] I believe peace can be achieved between the Arabs and Israel. I think that when we enter into talks we will be able to reach an agreement. Take Egypt, five times it has waged war against us, and then-President al-Sadat decided that nothing could be achieved by force, but that at the negotiations table it would be possible both to defend Egypt's interests and to achieve peace with Israel. Other Arab countries have not yet come to that conclusion and it seems to me that some Arab countries do not, in fact, want peace with Israel. I am saying Arab countries, although I should no doubt to be talking about Arab rulers, because nearly all the Arab countries are totaliterian states. Democracy is not advancing in the Arab world and that, possibly, is the main obstacle on the way to peace.

[Peres] I think that the best way of settling things is to have talks with a group of elected representatives of the Palestinians. I consider that both for the Palestinians and for us Israelis and for the cause of peace the most important thing of all is to replace the power of arms with the power of democratic majority. We recognize the Palestinians as a people. There's no problem in that for us. But why are they forcing us to recognize some particular organization as their representative? For us the problem is how this people is going to be represented, by people who have been democratically elected, or by a group which has been selected by the succession of events? For all of us it would be extraordinarily wise and correct to place the stake upon the democratic process. This is the heart of the whole problem. [Video shows clip of street clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians.]

[Kiselev] As you can see, there is nothing new in principle in the last two responses—the same old stubbornness about separate talks, elections in the occupied territories, the same old desire to heap all the blame on the Arabs, and rejection of dialogue with the PLO. And yet, I don't know about you, but for me the words of Shim'on Peres were more flexible and restrained, like the whole tone of his interview, and this, in my view, also came through in the way that both politicians answered the same question: What did they feel at the thought of giving an interview to Soviet television for the first time?

[Arens] There certainly is an improvement in our relations, but this process is taking place very, very slowly, and I feel that Soviet official circles are vacilating on this matter, perhaps under the burden of the past, but I hope that Soviet officials will be able to overcome this feeling. The restoration of diplomatic relations would enable the USSR to set out its position directly and more fully to Israel concerning Near East problems and perhaps to try to convince us over the things about which we differ. We, too, would be given the opportunity of talking directly to the USSR and perhaps, too, of convincing the USSR of some things. Any outcome would bring mutual benefit. Today the United States does not support the holding of an international conference on the Near East. The USSR supports it, but this does not in the least prevent it from having full diplomatic relations with the United States. To follow this logic, there is no reason for there not to be full-blown diplomatic relations between our countries, too. However, it is up to the USSR to decide on this matter—it broke off diplomatic relations, it is up to the USSR to decide if it wants to restore them and when.

[Peres] In our country there is deep feeling for Russia, for its history and culture, for everything it has gone through. To this day you can hear Russian songs and be aware of the influence of Russian literature. Over the past few centuries the lives of the Jewish people have been closely intertwined with the history of the Russian people, in joy and in sorrow, and when there were outbreaks of antisemitism or anti-Israeli attitudes in your country, we sincerely regretted this. Today we follow attentively and with great interest what is happening in Russia; we are genuinely concerned about that, and we pray for your success. We welcome both Gorbachev's domestic and foreign policies, for we believe that an amalgam of peace, democracy, and economic progress is the best thing that can be left to the next generations. We hope that Russia will be a bringer of peace to the Near East, just as once it was a bringer of weapons and discord.

So allow me, in conclusion, to say that we wish every success to the new Russian thinking, to all your impulses and deeds, and we hope that we will succeed in establishing genuinely good mutual relations between our peoples and states so that we can in the best possible way serve the cause of peace for future generations.

[Shishlin] Of course, we fully understand the problem of security, which is sensitive for every country, including, of course, Israel, for which the security problem is probably doubly or trebly sensitive when you take into account its relations with its Arab neighbors. But it should be noted that Israel has both sword and shield, a sharp sword which it has used more than once. But what Israel does not have, of course, is peace and calm, and there is something for the Israeli politicians to ponder here, all the more so since changes are happening in the positions of the Arabs. The Arab stands are evolving. Of course, I am not talking about all Arabs, but I mean, specifically, the PLO. Some constructive ideas have already been expressed, and probably some more constructive ideas could be formulated. In any event, it seems to me that it is incorrect to consider the whole Near East knot to be absolutely untieable. There are possibilities for change in the stands of both Israel and the Arab states and, what is particularly significant, it seems to me that the active influence of the world

community for the benefit of political settlement of this prolonged and torturous conflict is a considerable resource.

'Forum of 4' on Deportees Participation in Talks

TA1409073289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] The "forum of four" top ministers failed yesterday to decide on a response to the Egyptian proposal to convene peace talks in Cairo between Israeli and Palestinian delegations on the holding of elections in the territories.

Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens discussed details of the Egyptian proposal, which was presented to Rabin in his talks in Washington last week, and which was also conveyed through diplomatic channels to Jerusalem. They decided to continue their discussion tomorrow.

A major stumbling block to an Israeli response are divisions between Labour and Likud over the Egyptian demand—contained in its proposal to Jerusalem—that deported Palestinians be allowed to negotiate alongside residents of the territories. Peres has indicated publicly that he would accept deportees and Rabin is also agreeable to the suggestion.

[In a boxed insert on page 1 of THE JERUSALEM POST on 14 September, Menahem Shalev reports that "in a wide-ranging interview to be published in tomorrow's JERUSALEM POST, Peres said that 'deportees are not exactly outside Palestinians. We have, after all, told them that under certain circumstances having to do with their behaviour, they would be able to return.

'I would not hurry to reject proposals that they be included in a negotiating team.'"]

Egypt is expected to formally present its 10 conditions for elections in the territories within the next few days, sources said last night.

The conditions were originally conveyed to Jerusalem on July 3 through a visiting American congressman, but Israel has insisted that they do not require any reaction since they were not conveyed "formally." Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni flew to Cairo on Tuesday for consultations on his country's proposal.

Both Egypt and the U.S. have discreetly asked political leaders here to tone down the internal political feud while substantive talks on the Egyptian proposal are being held.

The Egyptian proposal envisages Palestinian agreement to negotiate on the basis of Cairo's 10 conditions—which include the peace-for-territories formula as well as a demand for the participation of East Jerusalemites in the poll. Cairo says Israel need not accept the 10 conditions before the start of negotiations.

Peres and Rabin maintain that Israel should negotiate with a Palestinian delegation that bases its position on the 10 Egyptian conditions, and that this would constitute acceptance in principle of the Israeli initiative. Shamir is apparently seeking clear-cut and unequivocal acceptance of the government's initiative, with no strings attached, which would precede a substantive discussion of the 10 conditions.

Sources close to Shamir and Arens said last night that the two have also expressed opposition to negotiations with a Palestinian delegation that has been clearly appointed by the PLO.

PLO denials notwithstanding, officials in Jerusalem maintained yesterday that Yasir 'Arafat has given Egyptian President Husni Mubarak the green light to advance his proposals. But there is some doubt in Jerusalem whether 'Arafat will stick to his agreement.

Mubarak is expected to formally announce his proposal during his September 29 address to the UN General Assembly. Officials here expect the U.S. to grant 'Arafat a visa to the United States within the framework of the package deal now being worked out by Mubarak.

There was no suggestion at the forum of four yesterday that the government debate the 10 Egyptian conditions themselves. In the Inner Cabinet meeting that immediately followed the meeting of the four, Shamir took the unusual step of clearing the meeting room of aides and then informed the ministers of the topic under discussion in the forum of four.

Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon called the Prime Minister's Office from abroad, just before the Inner Cabinet meeting, saying that he opposes any discussion of the 10 conditions.

In yesterday's meeting, Peres demanded that the four try to reach an agreed position before he and Arens travel to the United States, so that they could handle Bush administration queries. Peres departs Saturday night for a 10-day trip during which he will meet with top administration officials—including President Bush—and Arens leaves next week to head the Israeli delegation to the UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Qatzav Accepts Participation

TA1409111089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Minister Moshe Qatzav does not object to the participation of Palestinian deportees in the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel on elections in the territories. In an interview on Razi Barqay's "It's All Talk" program, Minister Qatzav said that in his view, there is no difference whether these Palestinians reside here or abroad, as long as they are not PLO members.

He also demanded that prior to launching negotiations, Israel announce in advance that the establishment of a Palestinian state is out of the question. [passage omitted]

'Economic Pressure' To Obtain Identity Cards

TA1309165489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Report "from the south" by Roni Sofer]

[Excerpt] Some 67,745 residents of the Gaza Strip have thus far applied for and received the magnetic cards issued by the Civil Administration which permit their holders to depart for work in Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has reported that in general an increase has been noted over the past 10 days in the number of people leaving for work in Israel. This follows the 2-week strike held in the Strip on instructions from the intifadah [uprising] leadership to protest the cards. It is believed that this is an indication of the failure of the struggle against the magnetic cards. It can be attributed to the economic pressure to which the Arab population of the Strip has been subjected. [passage omitted]

Reservists Sentenced for Not Serving in Gaza

TA1309192689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Three reserve soldiers sentenced to prison for refusing to serve in the Gaza Strip. Our army affairs correspondent that two of them were sentenced to 32 days in jail for refusing to serve in the Ansar detention facility, and the third reserve soldier was sentenced to 3 weeks in jail.

There are currently six reservists serving a prison term for refusing to serve in the territories.

Palestinian Fatalities in Occupied Territories

TA1309123789 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 13 Sep 89 p 12

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 11 September, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman did not report the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities stands at 608.

On the other hand, Palestinian sources report 734 fatalities according to the following breakdown:

—531 killed by IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—80 fatalities caused by asphyxiation.
—52 killed by beatings and electrocution.
—80 deaths by other reasons.

84 Collaborators Killed in First Part of 1989

TA1309143389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Security sources have reported that 84 Palestinians suspected of assisting the Israeli authorities have been murdered since the beginning of the year. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that in the first 12 months of the intifadah [uprising] only 18 Palestinians were assassinated for similar reasons. In the first 9 months of the year, 1,103 attacks have been mounted against Palestinian targets both in the territories and in the Jerusalem area.

Regulations Permit IDF To Shoot Masked Gazans

TA1309163889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently implemented new procedures governing the arrest of masked Arabs. This is part of the regular, standing orders on the detention of suspects. The IDF units facing masked individuals in the Gaza Strip were issued new regulations approximately a week ago. The masked men, as they are known in the IDF, or those whose faces are veiled, currently constitute the spearhead leading most of the demonstrations and riots in the Strip. They also dabble in instigation and attack local people suspected of assisting the authorities. The security forces in the Strip currently expend much effort to combat them.

To date the instructions differentiated between two groups of people—masked men armed with cold weapons, such as knives and axes, and others who are unarmed. The previous instructions permitted employing the procedures governing the detention of suspects only against armed masked men. That means that the soldiers were allowed to direct live fire at them if they refused to halt and had been duly warned, and after warnings had been called out loudly and shots were fired in the air. Regarding unarmed masked individuals, only use of plastic bullets was permitted.

Now new regulations have been issued, superseding the earlier distinction between the two groups. Now the soldiers are permitted to detain suspects by using live ammunition, if the individuals involved are masked and regardless of whether or not they are armed. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Addresses Rally in Ma'an 13 Sep

JN1309131389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1122 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Speech by King Husayn given during a visit to Ma'an on 13 September; carried within the "Newsreel" feature—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I extend the greetings of love, absolute confidence, and appreciation to all my kinfolk; brothers, sons, and comrades in the long march and also to the founders. I hail our righteous martyrs, the comrades of Husayn Ibn-'Ali, 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn, and Zayd, who lived up to the aspirations of this nation. [applause and cheers]

My beloved ones, brothers: Greetings to you all—kinfolk, brothers, and clans. I hail your consciousness, devotion, sincerity, and goodwill. I hail your ethics and the good manners passed on from father to son and which we and future generations must preserve. I greet you in Ma'an, the governorate, the city, the first stronghold and capital, and the starting point in our modern history of defending the Arabism of this land against hostile plans and of the efforts to raise over it the banner of the Great Arab Revolt. God willing, we will continue to carry the message in our hearts and consciences, uphold the trust, and perform our duty toward all Arabs throughout the Arab homeland. We shall keep the torch alight in our hearts and consciences. We shall continue along the course of reconstruction, sacrifice, and devotion in defense of the Arab order and the Arab homeland. We shall support our kinfolk and brothers in Palestine until rights are restored to their owners on the Palestinian national soil. [applause and cheers of "Long live the banner of the Great Arab Revolt"] Through deeds, not words, we shall turn our principles and objectives into reality, no matter how long it takes and regardless of the hardships and challenges.

I greet you and assure you of our determination to work so that this country, this part of the great Arab homeland, will be an element of strength in the Arab world and an example for our brothers. We derive this strength from your consciousness and devotion. Our only motive and objective is to seek God's blessing, to free our consciences, and to perform our duty to future Arab generations which, God willing, will take over the trust from us, preserve the Arabism of this land, and always forge ahead.

This is an opportunity for me to greet all of you, and through you, all the kinfolk and brothers in this governorate, and in all of Jordan, which stands firm on the longest frontline against the challenges and dangers: Arab Jordan, which is from its nation and for its nation and shall continue to be so; Jordan, which is working for Arab unity and dignity in the entire great homeland; Jordan which, despite all hardships and challenges, has acquired a notable and creditable place in the great homeland and in the entire world; Jordan, which speaks for justice and stands against all challenges; Jordan, which does not compromise this justice and its independent decisionmaking in the interest of this country, and before that the interest of the nation to which Arab Jordan belongs. [applause]

My greetings, love, appreciation, and gratitude go to you. We are one single family. Our meetings will recur, God willing. We will discuss our issues, affairs, and concerns and tackle them all, God willing. Our strength lies in the fact that we are one hand, and one heart for the sake of justice and the future, which is based on the principles, ideals, and values which we have inherited from our fathers and forefathers.

I would like to take the opportunity to greet everyone of my brothers here. I would like to greet Ma'an and the people of Ma'an, the city and the governorate. [applause and cheers of "Long Live"] I would also like to take the opportunity to discuss things with you, to hear your remarks and your demands, which we in the government will study. We support your demands. [someone makes a remark in the background, followed by laughter, applause, and cheers] We will do what is possible and we will continue the hard work and reconstruction in all fields.

Brothers, I will visit you soon, God willing. [words indistinct] I promised to visit you to meet with our brothers. Our meetings are for everyone's good. Greetings. Peace be upon you.

Crown Prince Continues Washington Visit

Confers With IMF Chief

JN1209210089 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended a dinner banquet held in his honor by the American Vice President Dan Quayle at his house in Washington yesterday evening. This morning his royal highness conferred with the American treasury and agriculture secretaries on bilateral relations and mutual cooperation.

Yesterday evening his royal highness met at his residence in Washington with the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Mr Mark Edelman, and a number of agency officials. During the meeting, Mr Edelman lauded Jordan's experience in confronting the recent economic crisis and its tendency to depend on the private sector.

His royal highness also conferred with the managing director of the IMF Mr Michel Camdessus on Jordan's economic adjustment scheme. Mr Camdessus praised the positive steps taken in this respect, stressing that these steps were exemplary and could restore confidence to economic reform in the entire region.

In the evening, his royal highness attended a dinner banquet given in his honor by the Arab-American Affairs

Council in Washington. The president of the council, former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of fostering bilateral relations based on mutual respect. He also praised Jordan's wise leadership led by his majesty the king. In a reply speech, his royal highness stressed the importance of bringing about a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement. He also emphasized the necessity to reach a settlement to the Lebanese crisis and a permanent agreement between Iraq and Iran. Tonight, his royal highness will meet at the White House with the American President George Bush. He will also meet with the American Secretary of State James Baker.

Meets With James Baker

JN1309062989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff writer with agency dispatches]

[Excerpts] Washington—His Royal Higness Crown Prince Hasan met here Tuesday [12 September] with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and was scheduled to meet with President George Bush later in the day.

No details were available on the meeting, but earlier reports indicated that the Crown Prince was expected to brief American leaders on the current situation in efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Crown Prince, talking to reporters afterwards, said Jordan believed that the U.S. government should grant a visa to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to enter the country and address the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

"We think 'Arafat should be granted diplomatic recognition," he told reporters after the 45-minute meeting with Baker. However, he said, he did not discuss the issue with Baker, but pointed out that Jordan has long taken the stand that 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, "should be accorded diplomatic recognition on a visit to the country."

The focus of the Crown Prince's talks with Baker and Bush as well as other American government leaders was expected to be efforts for peace in the Middle East in the wake of the advances that the new Palestinian strategy has made in the regional and international levels. Jordan has said that it totally supports the moves undertaken by the PLO.

The Crown Prince told reporters at the State Department that "there is a lot of behind-the-scene diplomacy" on the subject of Israel's proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives for negotiations with the Zionist state.

Jordan has said that the plan, proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, is not acceptable in its present form and content.

Implicitly acknowledging that the Middle East peace process was deadlocked, the Crown Prince said, "the stalemate is not perceived in this building."

He said this was a "wait-and-see" period in Middle East diplomacy. But, he said, "the human imperative has to come to the fore." [passage omitted]

The Crown Prince was the guest of honour at the American-Arab Affairs Council, where he met with former Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who praised the state of relations between Jordan and the U.S.

Addressing the council, the Crown Prince emphasised the need to reach a fair and comprehensive settlement in the Arab region, and stop the bloodshed in Lebanon as well as to reach peace agreement between Iraq and Iran.

The Crown Prince's remarks to reporters on the issue of an American visa to 'Arafat followed a disclosure by the PLO chairman last week that he intended to address the U.N. General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Meets Bush, Issues Statement

JN1309105089 Amman Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, currently on a visit to the United States, met at the White House last night with the American President, Mr George Bush. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, and Jordan's ambassador to Washington.

After the meeting with President Bush, his royal highness said that he discussed regional issues, particularly the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories and the agony of the Palestinian people there, and the situation in Lebanon. The crown prince said the discussions touched on the situation between Iraq and Iran.

His royal highness earlier met the American Secretary of State Mr James Baker. Asked about Jordan's reaction towards Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10-point peace plan, his royal highness said the initiative, which envisaged bartering land for peace and affirmed Arab sovereignty on Jerusalem, was a good idea if the Palestinians were assured it would eventually lead to a fair and comprehensive peace settlement. Prince Hasan urged Mr Baker to grant the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, a visa to attend the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly if he made such a request.

His royal highness later met with secretaries of treasury and agriculture and the U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

New Public Security Department Chief Appointed

JN1309142389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to appoint Staff Major General Fadil 'Ali Fuhayd as director of the Public Security Department as of 21 September 1989.

Earlier, the Council of Ministers decided to pension Staff Lieutenant General Eng 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali on that same day, as he had requested.

Columnist Faults U.S. Position on 10-Point Plan

JN1309101689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Sep 89 p 18

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "When Washington Reveals Its Face"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's denial that it has accepted the Egyptian 10-point peace plan is, under any circumstances:

1. An obvious act of support for the Likud's position and its intransigence on the basic issue: Land in return for peace.
2. An act curtailing any Egyptian effort to restore Cairo's natural position following its return to the Arab fold.
3. An act which clearly signals the termination of Washington's role as a partner in the peace process and turns Washington into a partner in the Israeli expansionist process that rejects legitimate Palestinian rights.

We cannot understand Washington's rejection of the Egyptian peace plan outside of this framework before it has finished being discussed in Israel. Through some tricky words, Washington adopted Shamir's plan and forced some Israeli parties to swallow it. It then opposed the interpretations of the Shamir plan that came from Likud fanatics, such as Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi, in order to contain the Labor Party's threat to withdraw from the coalition. By doing this, it managed to retain the interpretations of Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi and keep the Labor Party in the coalition government in favor of Likud's fanaticism.

The U.S. maneuvers cannot be concealed through the little it has offered to the Palestinians in the Tunis negotiations, which have resulted in no more than holding dialogue with the PLO. Like Yitzhaq Shamir, Washington is wagering on quelling the intifadah [uprising] and forcing the Palestinians and the Arabs to accept what they had rejected in Camp David. It is also wagering on keeping Egypt outside its Arab framework, where Anwar al-Sadat placed it when he signed the Camp David accords. Why could Washington not remain silent just 1 week until the Egyptian plan was fully discussed in Israel? We are trying in vain to interpret the U.S. policies without hostility, alliance with the Zionist rightists, and curbing any Arab moderation that gives and takes in accordance with the U.S. game itself. Like Tel Aviv, Washington appears to be willing to accept Arab extremism, because this gives it justification for allying itself with Israeli extremism. Kissinger once told us: Yes, we fully supported Israel because you fully supported the Soviet Union. Now we are fully supporting the United States, but the United States fully supports Israel.

It is not only Israeli terrorism that is hostile to Palestinian rights and waves weapons in the face of the glorious intifadah. Washington, its policy, and shameful maneuvers are also hostile.

Lebanese Front Discusses 'Current Situation'

NC1309123789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Front held a regular session today and discussed the current situation. Particular emphasis was placed on the tripartite committee meeting and rumors about differences in the Christian ranks.

The front pledged support to the tripartite committee and advised those who are counting on the destabilizion of the Christian ranks to stop wasting their time. From the Lebanese Front headquarters, Christian Usi has the following report:

[Begin recording] The Lebanese Front met today under Dr George Sa'adah. No statement was issued. However, a responsible Lebanese Front source said that discussions centered on the Arab tripartite committee meeting, which has been postponed until tomorrow. The source said that the front, which has always supported Arab mediation, pledges continued support to the committee and calls on that committee to follow up on the report which it prepared some time ago and resume its efforts on the basis of its earlier findings. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syrian Military Consignment in West Beirut

NC1309144789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has reported that 10 Syrian military trucks loaded with arms and ammunition arrived in West Beirut at dawn today. The trucks unloaded in the barracks of the Lebanese Army branch commanded by Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, and at the Fakhr al-Din, Henry Shihab, and Amir Bashir barracks in particular. Syrian Army personnel supervised the unloading.

According to military sources in West Beirut, the new weapons represent the second installment of the military aid that the Syrians are supplying to the brigades commanded by al-Khatib. The third consignment is expected to arrive before the end of September. This third consignment may include long-range, 130-mm artillery and 12-barrel rocket launchers.

'Awn Calls for Drawing Up 'Rights Charter'

NC1409064089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called for drawing up a Lebanese rights charter and for defining the true sovereignty of Lebanon as a prelude or precondition for any political solution to the Lebanese conflict. In an interview with the French newspaper LE MATIN, Gen 'Awn demanded that reformation of the political system in Lebanon should be inspired by prior determination of the needs of each community.

Gen 'Awn said that he is the most wanted and threatened man in the world today, because he has aroused the anger not only of the Syrian regime but also of all kinds of bandits.

More Clashes, Shelling in Beirut, Mountain Area

NC1309125989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The situation fluctuated between heavy clashes involving the use of artillery and guarded calm on the traditional confrontation lines and the northern al-Matn lines today.

Following heavy clashes which went on throughout last night and in which two people were killed and seven others were injured in both sectors of Beirut, the al-Yarzah clique resumed its attacks on the confrontation lines in Beirut and the Southern Suburb and against areas adjacent to these lines. The shelling of Clemenceau shortly before noon today left one person dead. Intermittent clashes also took place on the Ra's al-Nab', Primo, and Sodeco lines.

In the mountain region, 'Alayh and Dahr al-Wahsh came under sudden shellfire shortly after midday from the al-Yarzah army positions. The shelling is still continuing.

In the al-Matn area, tension still prevails on the Shrin-'Ayn al-Tuffahah and Zighrin-al-Dawwar combat lines following intermittent clashes which became heavy at about 1100 today. Bulunya reportedly came under fire from heavy artillery shortly after 1230 today.

Further on Beirut Area Clashes

NC1309194089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Clashes involving machineguns and rockets have been going on along the Sodeco-Primo-Ra's al-Nab' line for some time. Shells are landing in adjacent residential areas.

Intermittent fighting is occurring on the Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh-'Alayh lines. Meanwhile, guarded calm prevails in Upper al-Matn.

In the south, Israeli gunboats have patrolled the coast off Sidon, while Israeli warplanes were flying at low altitudes over southeast Sidon.

Foreign Minister Discusses Peace Prospects

PM1309153089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 89 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Zaki Shihab in Belgrade; date unspecified]

[Text] [Shihab] What has encouraged the tripartite committee to resume its efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis?

[Al-Shar'] I believe that as a result of new developments in the Lebanese arena, the dangerous situation in Lebanon, and the fact that it was proved to everyone that Michel 'Awn was not a man of dialogue nor a man of national accord—as he did not want a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, as all his recent statements prove—the tripartite committee has found it necessary to reappraise all the views raised over the past 2 months and take into account new factors in order to resume its work. The committee has announced that it will resume its activities on the 13th of this month Jeddah at the foreign minister level. The ministers will meet to examine their recent actions and contacts in a bid to enable the committee to resume its work.

We in Syria have emphasized, and continue to emphasize, that the resumption of the committee's work is a good thing when it comes to implementing the Casablanca summit resolution. We also met with the three brother ministers in Belgrade on the sidelines of the nonaligned summit. Our assessments and conclusions were very close. And there was a desire on Syria's and the committee members' part to extricate Lebanon from its predicament and tragic crisis. There was also a single assessment of Michel 'Awn's policy, namely, that it has brought nothing but destruction and ruin for the Lebanese, both Christians and Muslims. In fact Michel 'Awn has lost all his credibility in the eastern area [of Beirut] under his control, and he has become isolated. So that assessment will enable us all, and the Lebanese parties as well, to restore at least a minimum level of trust among them in order to cooperate with the tripartite committee. For our part, we will do our utmost to assist and cooperate with the committee in order to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

[Shihab] You referred to Michel 'Awn several times in your answer. Is he the problem and the solution? And what has changed in him since he was bound to Syria by ties of friendship?

[Al-Shar'] Since the outset we have told everyone that Michel 'Awn is not a balanced man. Thus, the policy he pursues in Lebanon has led to nothing but further killing, destruction, and remoteness from a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis. And what we said, and still say, has now proved correct. In our assessment we have proceeded not from our own views, but from Lebanon's true interests, as well as the interests of Syria and the Arab nation.

When he assumed the leadership of the military clique in East Beirut—and even before that, when there was talk about the election—Michel 'Awn made contacts with Syria with a view to its helping him become president of Lebanon. He showed every willingness to do whatever Syria wanted, but Syria cannot ignore the Lebanese reality. But it ignores Michel 'Awn's mentality in particular, because no one can be sure about it. His personal ambitions are fatal both to him and Lebanon. For that reason we ignored all his past attempts and told others that a wager on Michel 'Awn was a losing one.

[Shihab] In Syria's view, what are the preconditions for a solution of the Lebanese crisis?

[Al-Shar'] As I said earlier, sufficient support for the Casablanca summit's resolution on Lebanon and support for the committee, primarily from the Lebanese, is needed to implement that resolution. We believe that the committee members will succeed if they display patience and persistence in their work, despite any difficulties they may face, which we appreciate and understand.

[Shihab] Your excellency, minister, what does Syria want from Lebanon?

[Al-Shar'] Syria wants Lebanon united, Arab-affiliated, and independent, enjoying a system under which all Lebanese citizens are equal, so that it will not fall victim to internal unrest from time to time.

Syria also wants Lebanon to be secure and stable, that is, without Israel occupying a single inch of its territory. If that is achieved, then Syria will feel assured that the situation in Lebanon has become an important and helpful element in dispensing with Syrian military aid in Lebanon. Syria does not want to remain in Lebanon forever, nor is it in its interests to do so. It is not the Syrian forces in Lebanon which made relations with Lebanon historic. Relations between the two countries are as old as history itself. The people of Lebanon and Syria are brothers. We are one people, belonging to one nation, and all wanting Lebanon's security, stability, sovereignty, and Arab role.

[Shihab] In the past, relations between Syria and France have been tense, for instance when French naval vessels approached Lebanon. What did Syria hear from France after its representatives' visit?

[Al-Shar'] Over the past months the French have adopted fluctuating stances, and their assessment of the situation in Lebanon has differed from ours, although it was close to ours at one point.

When they recently dispatched their fleet to the eastern Mediterranean, there was a violent response from the nationalist and Islamic parties in Lebanon. So they decided it would be opportune to reconsider that step, especially since they had said that the aim of dispatching their fleet was not to intervene militarily in Lebanon. A French envoy, Francois Scheer, actually visited us twice. On his second visit, our views were close on how to

extricate Lebanon from its present crisis—first and foremost by achieving a firm cease-fire, lifting blockades, and forming a security committee to prevent the delivery of arms consignments to any of the parties fighting in Lebanon.

[Shihab] You and the parties supporting you described the French intervention at the time as foreign intervention. Does the Iranian presence meet that same definition or not?

[Al-Shar'] Iran is a Muslim country, and intervention, we believe, is measured by concern for Lebanon's unity and Arabism, since Lebanon must be for all Lebanese, not for one group at the exclusion of another. And the Lebanese must be equal within the framework of the political reforms they want for their country. It is from that perspective that we decide whether an intervention is positive or negative. Contrary to what some believe, Iran no longer requests the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. In addition to that, Iran and the results of our contacts with it have emphasized that that country is Arab-affiliated and that the nationalist and Islamic forces there—and here I mean both Muslims and Christians—have the right to choose whatever system they want without someone from outside the country dictating to them.

[Shihab] Which Iranian official emphasized that position?

[Al-Shar'] When Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati came to Damascus he informed us of the Iranian position I have just mentioned. And, in recent weeks, the Iranians have declared it through their media.

[Shihab] In the past, Syria and the United States had agreed on a formula for resolving Lebanon's crisis. Does that formula still stand, or has it been amended?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's positions are fixed, whether regarding Lebanon, the Palestinian problem, or the Arab-Israeli conflict. When we state a viewpoint we adhere to it. This is because it emanates from a firm conviction that it is the suitable framework for a settlement of that problem. And it is on that basis that proceed in our talks with others, whether with the United States or any other state.

[Shihab] When will diplomatic relations with Egypt be restored?

[Al-Shar'] That subject has not yet been discussed.

[Shihab] Were any meetings held with Egyptian officials on the sidelines of the nonaligned summit in Belgrade?

[Al-Shar'] No meetings were held.

[Shihab] You met with president Yasir 'Arafat. What was the nature of that meeting?

[Al-Shar'] We discussed the central issue—that of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. We also discussed relations between Syria and the PLO.

[Shihab] It is noted that Palestinian-Syrian relations are courteous but have not yet been intensified. What prevents the two sides from broaching the details?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that dialogue between the two sides can lead to positive results which will reflect positively on the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and on the overall Arab situation.

[Shihab] In the past, several formulas were reached for continuing the dialogue, but they were not applied in practice. What prevented this?

[Al-Shar'] Insufficient seriousness.

[Shihab] On which side?

[Al-Shar'] Not on Syria's side.

[Shihab] Sometimes the hostage issue subsides and at other times it intensifies. What is the nature of the contacts being made and the role being played by Syria to secure their release?

[Al-Shar'] In the past we played an important role to help secure the release of some foreign hostages in Lebanon for humanitarian reasons. We still believe that this role must continue.

[Shihab] Let us return to relations with the PLO. Where do you agree and where do your differ with its peace proposals?

[Al-Shar'] We in Syria have a firm, well-known view regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. Syria's positions have been proclaimed, and anyone can explore these positions as outlined at conferences, whether Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, or UN conferences. At this [nonaligned] summit we submitted a paper on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. We asked the brothers in the PLO to combine the two papers into a single one. We did this because we are convinced that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the conflict and that pan-Arab issues are inseparable from the Arab-Israeli conflict. Had there been no Palestinian problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict would not have been there in the first place. But the brothers in the PLO preferred to have two papers: A Syrian paper on the Arab-Israeli conflict and a Palestinian paper on the Palestinian problem.

But at the same time I say that the Syrian paper on the Arab-Israeli conflict confirmed that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the conflict. It also showed that the solution must be comprehensive. This is because any attempt to seek incomplete solutions of the overall conflict would complicate the situation further, not only with regard to the Middle East problem, but with regard to the overall situation in the region.

We believe that any solution that does not lead to a total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and does not guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights—including their right to self-determination and to establish their own independent

state in Palestine—will not produce a just and comprehensive solution. Syria also believes that a UN-sponsored international conference in which which all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, participate on an equal footing is the most suitable framework for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of UN resolutions.

[Shihab] What is the latest news with regard to improving relations with Iraq?

[Al-Shar'] There is nothing new with regard to Syrian-Iraqi relations except further deterioration and decline. Iraq's position has been clear in its support and recognition of Michel 'Awn's government, as it has been supplied with weapons worth hundreds of millions [units unspecified], whereas no other Arab state other than Iraq has recognized it.

[Shihab] Did you ask the United States to play any role with regard to relations with Britain?

[Al-Shar'] Of course not.

[Shihab] How would you asses the nonaligned summit's proceedings?

[Al-Shar'] The Nonaligned Movement is currently going through a stage in which it embraces differing views, especially as two currents have emerged. One says that the movement was established as an alternative to the policy of the Eastern and Western blocs. Therefore, the movement is facing a kind of retreat, because the reasons for its establishment have begun to disappear.

The other current, which Syria supports, says that the principles on which the Nonaligned Movement was established still exist and remain valid for all time, whether or not there is a conflict between the two blocs. This is because those principles actually concern themselves with the interests of all the peoples of the Third World, as well as in the interests of world peace.

The movement's objectives support the peoples' right to self-determination and oppose foreign hegemony and foreign bases. The movement has struggled, and continues to struggle, against racism. All these principles and objectives must continue to be pursued in order to achieve the movement's goals.

Furthermore, the move of the world's two major blocs from the stage of confrontation to the stage of detente and cooperation constitutes an additional reason for the movement's continued existence. This is the international climate to which the Nonaligned Movement has aspired since its establishment, since it is based on peaceful coexistence among the peoples and the elimination of all aspects of aggression, oppression, and colonialism.

[Shihab] At the Casablanca summit Jordan raised the issue of deploying Arab forces in Lebanon, and the proposal was repeated in Belgrade. What is Syria's position on that issue?

[Al-Shar'] The Arab Cooperation Council, or some of its states, raised something similar before, in addition to a talk about the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces. But from the discussion conducted by the political committee here in Belgrade, it has been ascertained that most of the states support the Syrian view, which says that the tripartite committee should be given a chance to resume its work for the sake of implementing the Casablanca summit's resolution. This should come in addition to emphasizing an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, as stipulated by international resolution 425 and the Casablanca resolution.

[Shihab] Are there any Syrian contacts with Lebanese Christian parties in the eastern area?

[Al-Shar'] Everyone in Lebanon seeks his homeland's interests and wants to keep Lebanon free of the tragedies of civil war and the destruction it leaves behind. There is nothing to be seen in Syria to indicate anything other than that Syria is a fraternal state helping Lebanon to achieve these objectives. Michel 'Awn is a special case, since he did not take public interests into account. When he called for liberating and destroying Lebanon, many Christians in East Beirut did not support him. You remember how the general behaved toward the deputies and Patriarch Sfayr when the Lebanese deputies met with the patriarch and issued a statement in which they criticized the civil war.

We believe that the majority of people in East Beirut are in good faith.

Transport Minister Returns From Amman

JN1209165189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Damascus—Transport Minister Yusuf Ahmad and his delegation returned to Damascus from Amman today at the end of a visit to Jordan. During the visit he attended meetings of the general assemblies of the Land Transport and Maritime Transport Companies.

Egyptian Trade Union Officials Conclude Visit

Al-Asad Receives Delegates

JN1209123289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1230 today the delegation of the Egyptian General Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation is headed by Ahmad al-'Amawi, president of the federation and deputy speaker of the Egyptian Consultative Council. Other delegation members include Anwar al-'Ashmawi, vice president of the federation and president of the General Union of Oil Workers; Sa'id Jum'ah, vice president of the federation and president of the General Union of Technical Industries; Hasan 'Id, foreign relations secretary of the federation and president of the General Union for Post and Telephone; Muhammad Kamil

Labib, assistant secretary general of the federation and president of the General Union of Transport Workers; and Mustafa Munji, financial secretary of the federation and president of the General Union of War Production.

The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, president of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions and member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and Mustafa 'Isa, foreign relations secretary of the federation.

Joint Statement Issued

JN1309140889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] The Egyptian trade union delegation has affirmed its great appreciation of Syria's struggle on the national, pan-Arab, and international levels. It values the successes Syria has realized in all fields on the way to development and strategic balance. These views were expressed in a joint statement issued today following talks between the General Federation of Trade Unions headed by Comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party, and the General Federation of Trade Unions of the Arab Republic of Egypt headed by brother Ahmad al-'Amawi.

The statement also affirmed the readiness of Syrian and Egyptian workers to play a major role in developing bilateral relations and trying to remove the obstacles that have hindered the growth and progress of joint action. They brought to mind the historic importance of the two people's unity, which was manifested in the 1958 unity and on the battleground of the October Liberation War in 1973.

The statement declared its support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and the Arab people's intifadah [uprising] in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon against the Zionist occupation. The statement condemned Israel's continued aggression against the Arab nation, its occupation of Arab territories, dreams of establishing a greater Israel, and hampering the implementation of UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statement said: The two sides paid special attention to the events in Lebanon. They condemned the Zionist enemy's continued occupation of southern Lebanon and its repeated aggressions in various regions. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist occupiers from the south in accordance with UN resolutions.

The two sides affirmed their condemnation of attempts to partition Lebanon and distance it from its pan-Arab relationship. They saluted efforts to fix a cease-fire, establish security in Lebanon, prevent its partition, preserve its unity and Arab identity based on the grounds of dialogue and national accord, and achieve political and constitutional reforms that would guarantee justice and equality for all Lebanese. The two sides affirmed their satisfaction over the Arab tripartite committee's resumption of action to solve the Lebanese crisis based on the Casablanca summit resolution.

The two sides expressed their hope that the pan-Arab action march will be promoted to bolster the struggle, avoid the dangers of Zionist aggressions, and liberate the occupied Arab territories. The two sides also saluted the struggle of the African continent's people against colonialism and racial discrimination and the European, Latin American, and Asian peoples' struggle for international peace and security.

Delegation Departs

JN1209210289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] The delegation of the Egyptian General Federation of Trade Unions left Damascus this afernoon after a 4-day visit to Syria. It was seen off by 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, Regional Command member and president of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions; the members of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Trade Unions; and the heads of the vocational unions.

Afghanistan

Resistance Launches Attack Along Salang Highway

BK1309144389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13 (AFP)—Afghan resistance commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has launched a large-scale offensive targetting a key weapons supply route north of Kabul, his Pakistan-based party said Wednesday [13 September].

The "Lion of Panjsher," as he is popularly known, launched the operation on a 50-kilometre (30-mile) front at dawn on Monday, Omar Sherdil of the Jamiat-e Eslami party's politburo said. Mr Mas'ud's guerrillas were still engaged in fierce combat with government troops on Wednesday, Mr Sherdil added.

Mr Mas'ud sent a brief battle report from the front to his brother and spokesman Ahmad Zia and to the Jamiat-e Eslami, one of the seven Afghan resistance factions grouped under an alliance that has its base in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar.

"We have scored important points," the message said. It did not give any casualty figures or other details.

Mr Zia said the main targets of the attack were the military airport at Bagram and the garrison towns of Jabal os Saraj and Charikar, situated between 50 kms and 70 kms (30 and 45 miles) north of Kabul.

The two garrison towns are located on the strategic Salang Highway along which military supplies from the Soviet Union are transported to Kabul. Mr Mas'ud had planned to launch the offensive much earlier in the year but it was put back after a major falling out with a rival resistance group. The Jamiat politburo member Mr Sherdil said that 30 of Mr Mas'ud's men had been massacred during an ambush in July by guerrillas of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami resistance faction.

Mr Mas'ud subsequently captured several hundred Hezb fighters including the alleged instigator of the killings in northern Takhar Province, field commander Sayed Jamal. Diplomats noted that the latest offensive, aimed at cutting supplies to Kabul, came as forces of Afghan President Najibullah were facing mounting pressure from the mujahidin in the South.

Western sources said the rebels were preventing a convoy of 1,000 vehicles from reaching the beseiged city of Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest, with valuable supplies. They added that the mujahidin had taken a number of government posts in the area of the eastern town of Khowst and attacked its airport with rockets.

Mas'ud's Forces Attack Highway

BK1309152389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1513 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have launched a successful attack on the battlefront, 50 km north of Kabul. The reports say that under the leadership of Commander Ahmed Shah Masood, the mujahidin attacked a few locations on the strategically important Salang Highway. Other reports say several rockets were fired on the Kabul airport early this morning, destroying an aircraft and breaking the windows of the VIP lounge. There were no casualties.

Radio Tehran reported that the mujahidin blew up an oil pipeline linking the Soviet Union with Kabul, causing total disruption of the oil supply.

Rebels Deployed To Block Convoy for Qandahar

BK1409030089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0248 GMT 14 Sep 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 14 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have taken up positions along roads leading to the southern Afghan city of Qandahar blocking the way of a massive government supply convoy, the area's rebel commander has said.

In a recent radio interview from his base in the suburbs of Qandahar, Commander Sher Mohammed, who heads mujahidin military operations in the region, said the guerrillas had blocked all approaches to Qandahar. A group of 700 guerrillas had been stationed between Qandahar and Maywand, another 200 were in the Registan Desert while a third group consisting of 300 had been posted along the 45 kilometres (28 miles) of road linking Qandahar with Khakrez in the north, he said.

Faced with continued pressure from the mujahidin from all sides the "morale of the regime troops was sinking" he claimed, adding that the convoy "is under extremely bad condition."

Western diplomats said Wednesday [13 September] that the convoy of more than 1,000 tanks, trucks, and military vehicles which crossed into Afghanistan from the Soviet Union on August 23 carrying ammunition, food, and fuel had been forced back at Maywand, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Qandahar.

Resistance sources in Pakistan said the convoy had been forced to split up following continued mujahidin attacks and that 80 vehicles that reached Maywand last Friday had been ambushed at Toor Manda after covering only 10 kilometres (six miles) on the road to Afghanistan's second city. Over 100 vehicles in the convoy have been destroyed either by mujahidin shelling or by mines, sources have said.

Cmdr Sher Mohammed said some 15 or 16 vehicles had been destroyed in the fighting last Friday.

Following the clash the convoy was diverted to Lashkar Gah, 80 kilometres (50 miles) further to the west of Maywand. Western diplomats, confirming the report, said the convoy was sitting in Lashkar Gah and that some supplies had been airlifted from the convoy to Qandahar by helicopter.

The diplomats said they expected the convoy to take "an exceedingly long time" to reach the city, and said the mujahidin were now deployed to meet the convoy from whichever direction it came.

Cmdr Sher Mohammed said a column from the convoy was ambushed in the Registan Desert and that 45 tanks and trucks were destroyed, adding that a jeep carrying senior government officials including the head of the ruling communist party's local chapter had been blown up killing all on board. He said guerrillas besieging Qandahar airport had now come to within 20 to 30 metres (yards) of the minefield protecting the facility.

"In fact the airport is paralysed and not even 10 per cent of its runway was safe for flight operations," he said. The mujahidin was also regularly sending small units into the city to attack security posts before withdrawing again, he said, adding that a unit had attacked a post on Monday killing 24 government soldiers and officers as they were holding a meeting.

A senior Kabul government minister last week said the convoy was proceeding cautiously but hotly denied mujahidin damage claims as "false propaganda from the West," saying only "two or three vehicles" had been damaged and those due to mechanical failure.

Deputy Prime Minister Mahmud Barialay said the convoy was carrying "enough weapons to resupply Qandahar for more than six months," adding that "they (the mujahidin) know it could change the balance of power in Qandahar."

More on Convoy Attack

BK1409083789 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched three attacks on a military convoy of the Kabul regime consisting of about 1,000 tanks, armored vehicles, and trucks in Qandahar Province. A military commander of the mujahidin, Sher Mohammed Khan, in an interview with the Voice of America, said that in the first attack, they destroyed almost 40 tanks and armored vehicles in Grishk area. The mujahidin carried out their second attack on the convoy in the Lashkar Gah area and destroyed 50-55 tanks and armored vehicles. He further said that the mujahidin executed their third offensive on the convoy in Rigestan because the convoy wanted to go to Qandahar through Rigestan. He said when the Kabul regime realized that the convoy could not reach Qandahar, it ordered it to retreat toward Lashkar Gah.

Indian Delegation Visits With PDPA Personnel

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD1209214389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 11, BAKHTAR—A protocol of cooperation was concluded between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, and the National Congress of India, I, here today at the Headquarters of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

Based on this protocol, bilateral cooperation will take place in different aspects between the parties and social and cultural organisations of both the countries during the years 1989 to 1991.

From the Afghan side, the protocol was signed by Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and from the Indian side by Ghulam Nabi Azad, secretary general of National Congress Party of India, I.M. Hamid al-Ansari, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of India was also present at the ceremony.

Najibullah Meets Indian Official

LD1209215289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 11, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with Ghulam Nabi Azad, general secretary of National Congress Party of India, I, at Golkana Presidential Palace today.

During the meeting, President Najibullah informed the Indian delegation on the recent developments taking place in the Republic of Afghanistan and realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The Afghan leader spoke on the significance of friendly relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries as well as issues related to the Belgrade conference and its gains.

The sides during the meeting in which Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC [Central Committee] and Muhammad Hamid Ansari, Indian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Afghanistan were also present, exchanged views on expansion and consolidation of friendly relations and mutual cooperation.

Indian Delegation Departs

LD1309103689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 12, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the Indian National Congress (I) Party, headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad, general secretary of that party which had arrived to Kabul on Sep 10 for a friendly visit at the

invitation of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, left Kabul for home today.

The delegation during its stay in Kabul, met with President Najibullah in which the Afghan leader informed it on recent developments in Afghanistan, gains of the national reconciliation policy and spoke on the [word indistinct] and friendly relations existed between the two countries.

Besides, the delegation had separate meetings on Sep 11, with 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, first vice-president and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan and Farid Mazdak, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.

The Indian delegation concluded a protocol of cooperation with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] on Sep 11 according to which bilateral cooperation will take place in different areas between the parties and social and cultural organizations of the two countries during the years 1989-1991.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, head of the said delegation took part in a press conference held in Kabul on Sep 11 in which foreign and home journalists took part.

G.N. Azad stated in the conference that, the Afghan people should unitedly struggle against foreign interventions and aggressions which are completely contrary to the Geneva accords.

At the Kabul International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Najmuddin Kawiaani, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA, CC [Central Committee] and Muhammad Hamid al-Ansari, Indian ambassador in the RA etc.

Afghan Deputy Premier on Domestic Issues, Tasks

AU1009171389 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Sep 89 p 6

[Interview with First Deputy Premier Mahmud Barialay, by Laszlo L. Lengyel: "There Can Be No Political Settlement Without the Afghan People's Democratic Party"—in Kabul; date not given]

[Text] Mahmud Barialay is one of the most noteworthy—and in many people's views, one of the most popular and influential—members of the government in Kabul. His personal fate is interesting: As the younger brother of former Afghan head of state and party chief Babrak Karmal, following Karmal's dismissal 3 years ago, Mahmud Barialay was first placed under house arrest and then imprisoned. He was released only a few months ago. Soon afterward, he became the first deputy premier. Our correspondent met with him in Kabul and interviewed him about the domestic situation in Afghanistan and the chances of a settlement.

[Lengyel] Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops 6 months ago, many people predicted that the regime in Kabul would collapse quickly. What is your view about the current situation of the Kabul government and the balance of forces within the country?

[Barialay] When our revolution triumphed in 1978, we wanted to become a developed country in which the representation of human rights and interests is guaranteed in the spirit of pluralism. The main reason behind our failure to achieve all this to this very day was the economic, military, and political intervention of foreign and domestic reactionary forces.

The fact that we committed serious mistakes in the first period after the revolution and frightened away the forces that could have joined us made our situation even more difficult. Today, it is absolutely clear to us that one class or group of people cannot rule in Afghanistan, and that broad masses and every patriotic force should participate in the power, including the national bourgeoisie, the intellectuals, and the patriotic religious forces. We should consider the interests of all the essential classes and strata of the population in building our new society and developing our economy.

Many people say today that the deployment of Soviet troops in December 1979 was a mistake. Looking at it today, this could also be true, but, in view of the conditions prevailing at the time, today it is difficult to judge whether that step was correct. We must not forget that, without Soviet help, our revolution would have collapsed. Therefore, we will be able to judge the deployment of Soviet troops in Afghanistan only from a historical perspective.

Our current situation is characterized by a tragic division of our country: The Afghan People's Democratic Party and its left-wing allies are on one side, and, the extremely heterogeneous opposition on the other side, an opposition divided within itself. All this is happening while we must face a danger that threatens all of us: attacks against our political sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. We can face this challenge only by cooperating with each other and focusing on our common national interests.

[Lengyel] The leadership in Kabul is conducting a policy of national reconciliation. Is there any real chance of a compromise between forces that are confronting each other?

[Barialay] The decisive thing is that we should concentrate on the main task: Preserving our independence and territorial integrity, and we should set aside our internal differences. It is a specific Afghan trait that we are capable of joining forces when confronted with great dangers. I am confident that this will occur now. An increasing number of people believe in reconciliation, and this makes us hopeful. The Afghan people have become tired of war, and we are ready for a peaceful settlement. We want a broad, coalition government, and we do not want to leave any responsible force out of this

government. Of course, this does not mean that we surrender to reactionary forces. We do not want to attack, but we will defend ourselves by all means. I find it important to stress: at present, our party and the progressive forces first want to defend our country, and only later our revolution. Our position is flexible, and we do not stick to monopoly over the power; we are ready for any rational compromise.

[Lengyel] According to a general opinion, the future of Afghanistan greatly depends on the international atmosphere and, in the final analysis, on the relations between the great powers.

[Barialay] International atmosphere and world public opinion have changed lately in our favor. This can be seen both from the positions of the nonaligned and neutral countries and the opinions coming from the western countries. Unfortunately, the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia do not accept the political realities and continue to endeavor to topple our regime. Public opinion is changing today in the United States too, particularly as a result of the fact that people have recognized that we cannot be subdued by force.

The events of recent months have also proven that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan was not the reason for foreign intervention, because the aggression against us continues also after the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Today, the entire world can see that the war continues not because of us and that we are not the ones who hinder a peaceful settlement.

[Lengyel] Not long ago, you were still in prison, and today, you are one of the influential members of the Afghan Government. As this fact also shows, the debates within the party and the often bloody showdowns have left their imprint on the events of the past 10 years. How do you judge the balance of forces within the party today?

[Barialay] All that happened to me is an internal party affair which we will solve ourselves, and discussing the reasons for my arrest would only lead to unnecessary debates. Personal affronts should be subordinated to our common political interests. I am convinced that the activity of our party should be based on a pluralism of opinions. At present, the party leadership is united concerning the main goals and principles, but there are different opinions within the party concerning the specific issues of everyday political practice. In my view, this does not mean the existence of factions but a natural part of the internal party life, something that contributes to the collective leadership. Therefore, the approach that presents the internal differences of opinions as confrontations is not true.

Najibullah Meets With Laghman Province Elders

LD1309221989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received today at Golkhana Palace of the Presidency a number of chiefs, elders, and representatives of various tribes of Laghman Province.

At this meeting talks were held about issues in Laghman Province and esteemed Najibullah issued instructions to the relevant authorities for the solution of local problems.

The representatives of Laghman Province promised the president of Afghanistan not to spare any effort and endeavor for the restoration of peace and security in Laghman Province.

Mojaddedi Against Communists Joining Government

BK1409102989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the interim Afghan government, has said: We are ready to provide an opportunity to every eligible Afghan Muslim to join the government. In an interview, he said that the communists should not be included in the broad-based government of the mujahidin. He added that the Afghan mujahidin's government is likely to be shifted to Afghanistan and that sites for some ministries have already been selected.

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the mujahidin have attacked (Qala Godki) and captured eight Kabul regime soldiers and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. They are also reported to have captured six agents of the Kabul regime's secret agency, KHAD, at Shah Juy, a liberated town of Zabol Province.

Security Organs Uncover Explosives in Kabul

LD1209215389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 11, BAKHTAR—Security organs stationed in Kabul city uncovered 16 kg explosives near to the central poly-clinic, Ministry of Public Health, as well as 16 kg explosives in first macrorayon placed in two boxes by criminal extremists today.

The US-Pak [as received] backed extremists intend to kill more Afghans by US-made explosives for the happiness of their beyond ocean masters.

A 20-member armed opposition group came over to the side of government in Khvajeh Ghar district of Takhar Province today.

Also, during severe armed clashes took place between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups in Qarah Bagh district of Parvan Province and of Badakhshan Province over 90 extremists from the both sides were killed and tens of others injured.

Besides, the Gulbuddin men attacked a centre of Rabbani groupings in Astalif [name as received], Parvan Province, captured alive over 80 followers of Rabbani.

In another fresh armed clash took place today in Balkh Province among rival groups, ten rebels were killed and tens of others injured.

This clash resulted in killing 20 inhabitants of that place and remarkable material losses were also inflicted.

Besides, a ringleader of the Sayyaf extremist group, in Shakar Darreh district of Kabul Province has sold 14 ground-to-ground rockets on government security forces today.

A number of Gulbuddin and Khalis followers have sent a resolution addressed to the so-called Rawalpindi government which says in its first article that sending girls to school is an illegal act and demanded that girls must not be allowed to go to school, reported radio BBC from Peshawar.

They also strongly rejected the idea of setting up a broad-based coalition government in Afghanistan, the report added.

Besides, radio of the so-called "Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan," reported last night that the Gulbuddin men have started attacks on Rabbani men in Badakhshan, Takhar, and Parvan Provinces.

Casualties, Damage Noted in 13 Sep Battle Report

LD1309210289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] An Armed Forces' authoritative source reported to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section that units from Khowzt major district have struck heavily at enemy positions causing loss of life and material damage. The heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have further strengthened their positions and have repelled the attacks of the enemy, who comprise the extremists, Pakistani military men and Saudi Wahabi mercenaries. Armed Forces units have carried out their patriotic tasks with high morale and high combat preparations. As a result of those combat operations, artillery strikes, and air raids, 30 enemies were killed and 240 others were injured. Similarly eight enemy mortars and rocket launchers were destroyed. Three Pakistanis and two Saudi wahabis are among those killed. During the operations four of the enemy were captured by the Armed Forces units.

The source adds that the enemy's heavy weapons injured four Armed Forces members and killed two civilians.

According to another report, Armed Forces' units in Nangarhar Province further strengthening their defensive positions and lines, struck heavily at the enemy's positions in retaliation for the enemy's heavy weapons fire.

As a result 35 people were killed and 46 others were injured. Similarly 10 enemy mortars and rocket launchers and dozens of their missiles were destroyed.

The source said that during clearing up operations in some areas of Nangarhar Province, two Armed Forces members were injured.

The source adds that Armed Forces units in Qandahar Province have carried out clearing up duties. As a result eight enemies were killed and nine others were wounded. Two extremist ringleaders were among those killed.

According to another report, Herat city came under sporadic enemy heavy weapons fire. As a result one civilian was killed and three others were wounded. In response to the enemy's heavy weapons fire, Armed Forces units based in the province fired at enemy positions killing eight of them.

Bangladesh

Iranian Foreign Minister Calls Ties 'Good'

LD1309200189 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept. 13, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday [13 September] at the head of a delegation for a two-day official visit.

Velayati and his entourage were welcomed by Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and a number of other high-ranking officials.

In a brief talk to reporters at Dhaka airport, Velayati described Tehran-Dhaka relations as "good" and stressed that the ties between the two important Islamic countries enjoyed significance for the unity of Muslim community.

He said he would discuss bilateral relations, regional and international issues with Bangladeshi leaders.

Velayati is scheduled to hold talks with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Thursday [14 September] and later in the day will meet with his Bangladeshi counterpart.

At the end of the two-day official talks, a letter of understanding is expected to be signed between the two sides on the formation of a joint ministerial commission for diplomatic, economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

This is Velayati's third visit to Bangladesh since 1983.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi news media Wednesday referred to the residence of 10,000 Bangladeshi people in Iran as a sign of friendly ties between the two nations.

Ershad Proposes Increased Cooperation With India

BK1109155589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] The Bangladeshi president, Mr Ershad, has proposed increased cooperation with India in commerce

and economic fields. He hoped this will pave the way for strengthening the existing friendly relations between the two countries. Mr Ershad expressed this opinion when the [Indian] minister of state for commerce, Mr P.R. Das Munshi, called on him in Dhaka today.

India

Kashmir Party Leader Shot to Death 14 Sep

BK1409075489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr Tika Lal Tapilu, was shot dead by unidentified assailants near his residence in Chinkral Mohalia in Srinagar this morning. A police spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that Mr Tapilu received several bullet injuries and was immediately rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead.

16 Arrested in Kashmir for Subversive Literature

BK1409035189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 16 persons said to be responsible for printing and distributing literature encouraging subversion have been arrested. Police raided two local printing presses in Srinagar and arrested the staff. Meanwhile, a CRPF Jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier] was injured seriously when two suspected extremists fired at him in Srinagar.

In Leh town of the state, the curfew was relaxed for 13 hours yesterday. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the period.

Paper on Generals' Remarks on Bofors Affair

BK1209122689 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Sep 89 p 8

[Editorial: "The Cause for Alarm"]

[Text] The revelation which has caught public attention the most is the vital one General Sundarji has made in his interview to INDIA TODAY: namely, that the officials of Bofors, when confronted with the threat of the likely cancellation of the contract, were prepared to disclose the names of those who had taken kickbacks, and that it was the prime minister who immediately, insistently and personally scotched this possibility. This is as it should be. For not only does it once again nail yet another lie of the prime minister—in this case the lie that he ruled out the cancellation of the contract because of the advice of the army—it also points to the beneficiary of the kickbacks. But the interviews of Gen Sundarji and Lieutenant General Hridaya Kaul also point to the general state of affairs within the defence forces and even more so within the Defence Ministry, a state which should alarm the country.

as already docu-
The comptroller and auditor-general dards were delib-
mented the fact, for instance, that sta ore contract for
erately lowered so that the multi-selected supplier,
ammunition could be given to a pre ing 1983-84 the
Now Gen. Sundarji tells us that du were being con-
assessment of the different guns whic ll but the French
sidered was skewed so as to rule out red to become a
gun. As he puts it: "It was being tail n up, the values
one-horse race ... all the matrices dra" Similarly, with
given were, in my view, totally bogus. "The technical
relation to the Austrian gun he stat up with the sole
evaluation committee was, I believe, sn ... Someone in
intention of pushing the Austrian gu tion) more or less
DWE (Directorate of Weapons Evalua .-Gen. Hridaya
stage-managed this whole exercise." pared to give him
Kaul has revealed that a firm was pre ot the impression
Rs [rupees] 2.5 crore as bribe, that he 5 crore if only he
that they were prepared to give up to Rs a notch or two,
would move the gun of that company know the recom-
He states that the company had got t he Army in a top
mendation which had been made by reported both
secret note to the Defence Ministry, fence secretary,
matters to the chief of staff and to the blacklisted. And
He recommended that the company b
yet nothing but nothing was done.

cow. Defence has
Having been treated so long as a sacred box. The country
become both a closed shop and a black amining what is
is prevented time and again from e lack box. Recent
going on inside that closed shop, that like the contract
episodes like the Bofors gun contract, a glimpse of the
for HDW submarines, have given us this sphere is as
state of affairs. And it is evident that her sphere. The
much in need of reform as every o nal service to the
generals are therefore performing a si see what is going
country by giving it the opportunity to plications of what
on, and the country better study the im urge and reform,
they are saying and organise itself for

nents on Bofors

Editorial Criticizes Generals' Com*lish*

BK1309061589 Delhi PATRIOT in En 4 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Dangerous Portent"]

g the concept of
[Text] It began with ministers violatin secrecy. Now the
collective responsibility and the oath of to disclose what
former chief of army staff has chosen nment including
transpired between him and the gove pposition parties
the prime minister's secretariat. The o rejoice in these
will do well to pause before they begin lds to the govern-
developments because the disclosure a ssue. General K.
ment embarrassment on the Bofors i r the comptroller
Sundarji's disclosures, coming soon aft the government
and auditor-general's report, imposes o convincing about
the responsibility of doing a lot more far. But there is
the whole issue than it has done so serious concern.
another aspect which should cause the governmen
Surely, this is not the first time when tical masters: in
servants have differed with their pol

fact, there have been instances of much sharper divergence of opinion. But officials have honoured the code of conduct that the affairs of the government must not be made public. If government servants, military or civil, were to make public the stand taken by them or the elected political leadership, orderly conduct of government will become totally impossible. Gen Sundarji's disclosure is tantamount to the collapse of that principle. It is also intriguing why he should have chosen to make these disclosures so late in the day. His is obviously a blatant breach of conduct. Why someone who occupied the high office of chief of army staff has chosen to attract this odium? Gen Sundarji, at one stage, favoured Bofors which he felt was a good gun at the price at which the government had decided to buy it. When he came to know of acquisition of sophisticated radar by Pakistan, he was concerned that our western frontier has almost become naked and the only way to guarantee the country's security was to go in for Bofors gun. He was upset that the government already took nine years in taking such a vital decision. Of course, he had the right to change his views and, as he says now, opt for a stand which would have delayed the acquisition of the gun by two years. It is not clear however why Gen Sundarji did not take the Joint Parliamentary Committee into confidence about the facts he has divulged now. Gen Kaul has also chosen to disclose now that he was offered bribe by an arm peddler and how his notings had come to the knowledge of the gun merchants. These "disclosures" do no credit either to the government or to those who have belatedly chosen to go public. The military and its senior officers are being drawn into controversies which will do no good to that institution or the country. The portents are grave indeed.

Generals Cited on Importance of Siachen Ridge

BK1309060589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Sep 89 p 5

[By Cecil Victor]

[Text] Siachen, Aug 31—It is, undoubtedly, the world's worst battlefield, but Pakistan is trying to grab more of it even as its generals are talking peace across the negotiating table. It raises the thought why must we be in such a hurry to leave?

General Officer Commanding the Siachen sector Major-General V.R. Raghavan, who has thwarted several determined attempts by Pakistani troops to wrest the high ground along the Saltoro ridgeline, says: "staying on in Siachen does not pose a problem for the Indian Army...it is not correct to say we are paying a heavy price...it is uninformed talks that casualties are causing attrition to the defence effort".

According to the general, the casualty rate, even in the face of the bitter cold (minus 55 degrees centigrade accentuated by the wind-chill factor), is no worse than in other high altitude positions held by the Indian Army in other Himalayan sectors.

"It is not a touch and go affair in Siachen. Our logistics arrangements are solid, our roads fully developed and we have a highly complex air supply system", Gen Raghavan said.

Air Officer Commanding (Leh Sector) Air Commodore M. Dhillon said vertical induction with helicopters was the only way of quick re-supply of the forward outposts on the Saltoro ridgeline. This is backed up by an air-bridge maintained by AN-32, AN-12s and IL-76 fixed-wing aircraft. These bring in supplies of food, ammunition and troops on rotational duties and take out casualties to as far off base-hospitals as Chandigarh and Delhi if the need arises.

Chetak helicopters are on stand-by to evacuate mountain sickness and frostbite cases at a moment's notice.

Gen Raghavan, commenting on the combat environment on Siachen, said India is in control of the three main passes—Sia La, Belafond La and Chulong La—and the respective shoulders are looking into Pa-held territory.

Pakistani troops, notwithstanding two rounds of negotiations to bring peace to the area, are making a daily effort to try and dislodge us from these areas', he said.

"The Pakistanis fear we will advance down these passes onto their base areas", the general said.

Though there has been nothing like the determined "military mountaineering operations" of April and September 1987 at Belafound (when Pakistan lost the Quaid post to Sub-Maj Bana) and the April 1989 assault at Chumik, there are daily rocket and artillery attacks and attempts to creep up on Indian positions, he says.

But these are immediately frustrated. "On our side it is an easy, confident, laid-back style of combat", Gen Raghavan said.

The visit by a party of Indian newsmen (after five years of pleading and in the wake of an American correspondent who was taken there first) raises more doubts about the sustained political and military lobby campaign to make out that it would be best that India gets out of Siachen because it is a costly and strategically useless operations.

Within the military establishment, there is the two-track approach by which serving generals say with the nation standing solidly behind them with the best of equipment, rations, clothing and logistics—they can confidently hold Pakistan troops at bay.

On the other hand, retired generals, some of whom were involved in the induction of Indian troops into Siachen on late Prime Minister Indira Gandi's orders to prevent what was perceived to be another Chinese-style nibbling of Indian territory, are now orchestrating a campaign to end the operations.

This finds echo in the statements of political leaders and appears to be the raison d'etre of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's diplomatic overture to Ms Benazir Bhutto.

If Pakistan wants it so much and political and military leadership describe "the bit of wasteland" as "our territory" and "the motherland" it is pertinent to ask why are we in such a hurry to demilitarise it and withdraw troops who had prevented it from being nibbled away.

The tragedy is that by merely agreeing to a line of actual control along the Saltoro ridgeline (though Pakistan insists it should run from Grid Reference NJ 9842; to the Karakoram Pass), we would be recognising Pakistan's locus standi in territory acquired through aggression and would create conditions by which a permanent division of the State becomes inevitable.

President Criticized for Using 'Imperial Style'

BK1309100589 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 89 p8

[Editorial: "The Office and the Man"]

[Text] It would be a great blow for Indian democracy, for our crippled polity, for the return of good government if President Venkataraman acted on Mr V.P. Singh's letter urging him to advise Mr Rajiv Gandhi to resign in the light of Gen. Sundarji's startling disclosure about the Bofors deal. However, for Mr Venkataraman to do anything of the sort would be totally out of character. Like some of his predecessors in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House], Mr Venkataraman has revealed little understanding of, and even less interest in the responsibilities of the office. He has successfully reduced the Presidency to clerical dimensions.

In saying this we are not asking the President to put on a revolutionary mantle—only that he should realise the obligations, the responsibilities, the powers of the office he holds—obligations and responsibilities so categorically envisaged in the Constitution of which he is an oath-bound protector, as he is of all the various institutions set up under that very Constitution. For instance, Parliament, of which he is an integral part, and yet in the debasement of which he has, by not acting to stem the rot, extended his acquiescence by his studied silence. Ditto for that other pillar of our polity, the judiciary, and in this even in the routine matter of ensuring that justice is done, and seen to be done, in the best traditions of justice. In Kehar Singh's case, for example, by not taking congnizance of the gaping infirmities of the evidence presented, by ignoring well-argued pleas for clemency; in short, by letting a man be hanged on dubious evidence, Mr Venkataraman not only abdicated his responsibility but ended up being an accessory to the state murder of Kehar Singh.

Neither in this case, nor in rejecting out of hand Mr Shanti Bhushan's plea for permission to prosecute the prime minister did Mr Venkataraman give any reasons whatsoever. He evidently acted as he was asked to act, not by his own reasoning, not by his conscience, but by the very persons whose actions were questioned in the petitions.

This is not what the office of the president is all about. This is the imperial style—imperial by proxy. And when this comes to be, as it has in India, when institutions are systematically subverted, when persons whose duty it is to protect them help in the subversion, it is time indeed that the phase were ended by voting the looters and their complaisant supporters, the whole lot of them, out of office, out of the system.

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Relations With United States

LD1309140589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Speech by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at a meeting with of group of Iranian regional visitors in Tehran on the morning of 13 September—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [chants of support] First of all, I sincerely and heartily thank all brothers and sisters who have come from different cities and towns of the country and far-off places in order to prove and express their faith in the revolution and Islam. I especially thank the senior ulema and the esteemed Friday prayer leaders; the dear families of the martyrs; the selfless devotees [disabled]; the POW's and those missing in action; and the combatant and praiseworthy dear youth. The issue to which all of us must pay attention is that the defense of the revolution and the discernment of what is in the best interest of the revolution is a task which is both easy and difficult. In one sense it is easy; in another, difficult. It is easy, but impossible. It is easy because the pure nature of the mass of people also discern it.

If you look at the huge population of Iran, you will see that since the start of the revolution in almost all issues, the masses thought correctly and distinguished correctly. They identified the path well. They did not encounter anxiety, temptation, or harm along their direct path, or if they did, they passed there by in no time. So, for instance, in the war, the people in general—from cities and villages, different strata, women, different families—they did whatever they could and whatever they had the strength to do, for the war, especially the deprived and needy strata—the rural inhabitants, the tribes, workers in factories, and others.

Well, this means that the masses and grassroots of society discern and understand what is in the best interest of the revolution. But, on the other hand, the discernment of the best interest of the revolution [tashkhis-e maslahat-e enghelab] and defense of the revolution appears to be difficult because some of our own kind, those who claim that they are familiar with the

problems of the country or with political problems sometimes make mistakes and understand wrongly, distinguish wrongly and act badly. Those who claimed that they knew and understood Iran's political problems—for the past 40 years, for example, or the past 30 years—have become impotent in the face of the glaring problems of the present. What the people understand quite clearly, some of these opinionated and so-called learned people cannot discern, though it is easy.

So this shows that there are difficulties involved; that it is not all that easy. For example, on the question of the war, people understood well what they were doing. Anyone who took a look at the scene would understand. Islam's enemies imposed a war on the revolution. They rushed to our borders; they destroyed and set places on fire; they captured civilians from the desert regions; they committed atrocities; they captured our cities. Anyone who looks at all this with a healthy mind will understand that duty consists of defending the country and driving the enemy back to their place. Who can look at this episode impartially, without bias and prejudice, and not understand this?

Well, it is obvious that if a nation does not defend itself it does not deserve to exist; it is not worthy of remaining independent, not even worthy of pity. Our people well understood that they should—in a manly way and without relying on or having confidence in the so-called political endeavors which were being exerted at the international level and none of which were to the benefit of the people of Iran—without paying attention to these, they should forego the small pleasures of life so that they could snatch their destiny from the hands of their enemies.

You saw it for yourself; you were there, you, dear people. Your youths, your middle aged, your old men, your women, even your young ones—when you backed and supported the war arenas, they gave money, prayed, chanted slogans, conducted political protests in the interest of the combatants, supported the esteemed and gracious leader. You did something which not only compelled the enemy to withdraw and stop their aggression, but the enemy also learned a lesson from you, a severe lesson, so that everyone in the world realized that Islamic Iran is not a morsel which can be easily swallowed; or concerning which action may be taken in accordance with the desires of the world's tyrants.

Our people understood this well. At that time you could see that some people cried out: Look sir, why this war? Why is the war continuing? Why go to the fronts? They protested; they distributed leaflets; and foreign radio exaggerated what these people said and broadcast it all over the world, reaching the ears of our nation via tens of radios in an effort to weaken our nation's determination. But of course, they were not able to do this. It was clear that they could not. The nation was awake. Well, a thing like this, which was so clear and undertood by all the people, was not grasped by some.

Another example is the issue of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and the anti-arrogant stances adopted by the Islamic Republic order and officials in charge of our foreign policy who have stood firm and upright against U.S. bullying. The people understand this very well. The people have never dropped from their tongues the slogan "Death to America." [Crowd chants "Death to America"]

In the past few years a group of so-called rationalists and pragmatists have raised their heads. In the name of prudence and alleged rationalism they have advised the people, the officials of the system, and our illustrious late leader, saying why do you fight and confront the United States which is a world power? Why do you engage yourself in conflict against a frightful demon? This is also one of the issues people understood but some of the elite did not understand. They imagined that the Islamic Republic had decided to engage in hostility against a powerful giant in the world stage without any reason and any cause; this was not the issue. The issue was that we, as the Islamic Republic, as the Iranian nation, did not initiate animosity against anyone.

There are so many countries in the world whose thoughts are not the same as ours, whose geographical situation is not the same as ours. We have relations with them; we have contacts with them; we have dealings with them; we have mutual visits; we have cooperation in our bilateral and international relations. This is not the issue. This is not the cause of our problems with the United States. There are two basic points in the issue, and if anyone does not pay attention to these two ponts, he will go wrong.

The first point is that the Iranian nation expelled from its country a usurping, bullying, colonialist, and aggressive entity, namely the U.S. Government and U.S. policies; like the owner of a house who has spent some time in ignorance, in negligence, in childhood, and whose house and property has been taken over by someone else for many years. Now this young man has become powerful, has been awakened, has come to his senses, has realized his own interests, and has come forward and says: What are you doing in my house? Why are you on my property? Get out. No usurper will leave at mild talk. If the usurper intended to leave as the result of soft talk, why should he engage in usurpation in the first place? One should throw the usurper out. The Iranian nation seized the usurper with force and powerfully threw him out; namely, the U.S. policies, advisers, government, and mercenaries from inside its house. [Crowd shouts "Death to America" and other slogans]

It is clear that the usurper will always retain enmity in his heart for this nation, for this revolution, and for this government. Even if it came and said "Now let us be in peace, and let me come [back], although in a friendly manner," it is clear that his intentions are still hostile; he is still intent on plundering and colonizing. This is the first point. The enmity between the United States and the Islamic Republic and Islam and our combative and

revolutionary nation is, in the first instance, due to this point. It [the United States] is wounded. It used to derive political, economic, and military benefits—all together—from its presence in Iran. It was present in our borders to watch over its international rival. Was this a minor issue? It made use of our resources to improve its own financial situation and the situation of its enormous companies day by day. It made use of the Iranian Government as an agent, as a tool in its hands in all international issues. If it was hostile to the Arabs, it would make use of the Iranian Government. If it wished to influence OPEC it made use of the Iranian Government. If it wanted to create a security cordon around Israel, it would make use of the Iranian Government. Iran was a tool in its hands; well, what does it mean to be a tool? It has lost all these. This was the first point.

The second point is that the Islamic Republic has not merely stopped at expelling the United States. It has done something bigger. The second venture is greater than the first one; namely, it has created a light, a ray of hope in the hearts of one billion Muslims. This means threatening the United States on the level of the lives of one billion Muslims. The U.S. Government, cannot now influence the Muslim states as easily as it could in the past because the Muslims have awakened in other countries, too.

You heard that in one of the Muslim countries a couple of years ago, when the U.S. Navy came to dock in that country's ports for a routine voyage—a courtesy tour on the surface, God knows its true purpose—for a normal visit paid usually by foreign vessels and warships, the Muslims of that country staged demonstrations and demanded that the U.S. ships should not even be allowed to dock in their country's ports. The United States is facing such problems all over the Islamic world. We did not do this, Islam did. Of course, their response is to blame Iran wherever a Muslim raises his head. They accuse him of being an agent of Iran saying that he either receives funds from Iran or is encouraged. No, we have nothing to do with them. We live our Islamic life.

The Muslims gained hope with the revival of Islam. They came alive, they awakened from their sleep. Nations are gradually rediscovering their Islamic identity; and this is a major headache for the United States. This is the second point and the second cause for hostility. This is the problem; and the United States intends to take revenge. It is determined to stand against this event, which is bitter to an aggressive and bullying government.

Of course, you, my brothers and sisters, should know that what I mentioned above, the two points I discussed, would not be a bitter taste for the United States, the United States Government, if it was not an aggressor or expansionist. Very well, you [the United States and the U.S. Government] are a country, a government, and a rich country too with countless scientific developments. Stay in your place and live within the four walls of your country. What do you have to do with Africa? What have you to do with Asia, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean, Latin America, and progressive countries? Get on with your own business, the same as other countries.

If the Americans were content with their own situation—it is a big country with natural resources, oil, agriculture, minerals, factories, science, progress, industry, and everything else—they could live happily. Alas, this is not the case. They are expansionists who wish to have a hand in every part of the world, to be present and to colonize. They do not care what happens to other nations' interests. It is their own interests that should be protected from danger, even at the cost of destroying other nations' interests. Well, when this is the case, it is obvious that the Islamic movement is harmful to them, and they, therefore, decide to take revenge.

What is the shape of their revenge? Their revenge is the same deeds they perpetrated during the past 10 years. There is nothing more up the U.S. sleeve. It takes revenge in the same way; by being politically difficult. It also takes revenge by imposing economic sanctions against us. Their revenge is to find an unwise government and a foolish man to wage a war. They did this; and it seems this will not be repeated. That is, no one is so foolish as to fall into such a trap and yet wage another war against the Iranian nation. This matter ended, thanks to your self-sacrifices. Of course, we always believe in remaining alert. Do not forget this.

We never consider the danger to have completely passed. This is an Islamic instruction. The nation must remain awake and alert. The nation is alert against us. If we go to sleep, we will receive a blow. On the basis of appearances, on the basis of usual calculations, whatever the blow Iraq received in this war, the huge damage inflicted on it and a country which had immense foreign currency reserves one day, is today in debt to the tune of $70 or $80 billion. It has one of the largest debts in the world. Among the countries in debt, Iraq is nearly first or second. Well, this is a lesson to everyone. The side that can stand on its own two feet in this dispute is our side because we were engaged in the same war of 8 years. We received none of the help they received. We have no debt, either. It is because our nation is alive, awake, Islamic, loyal, devoted, contented, and interested in its fate, because it remains united on the scene.

Well, this is what the enemy can perpetrate against us. Our only alternative in defense of Islam and the revolution is to stand firm and steadfast. This steadfastness will have many blessings for this nation's present and future destiny. Your resistance and steadfastness will remove the difficulties one after another, God willing. Praise be to God, the outcome of your steadfastness ensured total stability of the Islamic Republic's foundations after the big tragedy of his holiness the imam's demise. Everything is fully in its place, the government, the president, the Majlis, the judicial power, and other organs. This is owed to your resistance, steadfastness, and awareness. This is owed to you.

Of course, the responsible authorities should, through intensifying their efforts, seek to solve the problems; they are doing so. I see and I know that they are truly and sincerely striving to solve the problems. All problems can be solved through efforts of a group of expert, sympathetic, and active individuals. Some are solved sooner; others take time to solve. Eventually, all the problems will be solved, thanks to divine succor, God's mercy and particular care and attention of the lord of the era [the hidden imam] may our souls be sacrificed for him and may God hasten his advent, and thanks to you, the people, and your support. These are good efforts. Of course, these efforts should be directed toward serving the oppressed masses of the nation, who deserve more. They were the ones who showed a greater degree of loyalty during these years. The meek, the remote towns, rural people, the tribal people, the average urban strata, these were the people who remained the true loyal soldiers of the revolution. These are the ones who the imam [Khomeyni] referred to as "the bare feet." Those who are deprived of a comfortable and luxurious life, which include majority of our people; the plans should be directed toward serving these people; and as I feel and see, this is the case.

We hope that Almighty God will bestow success upon you all. May he protect you and may he remove the evil of the enemy from the homes of Islam and the Muslims and particularly from the Islamic Republic. We must beseech Almighty God to preserve this awareness, this unity, this loyalty, this ability to discern the interests of the revolution and the path of the revolution. Praise be to God; you are endowed with this quality. Almighty God, too, with his succor and kindness, has so far covered you in his mercy and will continue to do so, God willing. May God's peace and salutations be upon you all.

IRGC Condemns U.S. 'Aggressive Attitude'

LD1309123989 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement here Wednesday in which it condemned the U.S. Congress' open interference in internal affairs of Iran.

Some 186 U.S. congressmen recently cabled a letter to Secretary of State James Baker urging the Bush administration to take measures against the Islamic Republic and support the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in its desperate attempts to overthrow the Islamic system in Iran.

"The letter is a clear sign of the aggressive attitude of the American Administration," the statement stressed.

"The letter proves the shamelessness and impudence of the arrogant and expansionist regime of the Great Satan which claims to advocate international norms and noninterfernece in the internal affairs of other sovereign countries," it said.

In the statement, the revolutionary guards have also underlined their combat readiness to defend their Islamic homeland against any aggression.

Adeli Appointed Director of Central Bank

LD1309173989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, chaired a cabinet meeting this afternoon.

The study of various government departments, as well as their foreign currency and rial currency needs during the 5-year plan for economic, social, and cultural expansion, continued and discussions were held on trade, security, housing, physical-training, and higher education. The continuation of those discussions were left for the next meeting.

According to the report on the proposal of the minister of economic affairs and finance, and the approval of the general association of banks and also of the cabinet ministers, Dr Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli was appointed director general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank.

The cabinet ministers thanked Mr Qasimi, the former director general for his services, efforts and endeavor.

Broadcast Policy-Making Council Head Named

LD1309143489 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 13, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday appointed Hojjat olEslam Mohsen Doa'gu as chairman of the policy-making council of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) for three years.

In a decree issued here, Ayatollah Khamene'i said the aim of establishing a council was to determine policies and activites of the Iranian radio and television.

The council is composed of the IRIB head, some of his assistants and a number of experts.

Hoj. Doa'go was representative of the executive branch in the IRIB's supervisory council.

Besharati Meets CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1309215889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister in charge of international and economic affairs arrived in Tehran this morning.

In a meeting with Mr Besharati, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, he stressed bilateral cooperation and asked for the expansion of this cooperation. He said: The

CSSR foreign minister will either come to Tehran at the end of the current Christian year or at the beginning of the next year.

In this meeting, our country's deputy foreign minister gave some explanations about the Iran and Iraq peace talks and the necessity to speedily implement UN Resolution 598 and asked the countries that have recognized the resolution as the best solution, to keep to their word and act for the implementation of Resolution 598.

Also, this morning, during the first round of talks between the CSSR deputy foreign minister in charge of international and economic affairs and the deputy foreign minister in charge of the international affairs of our country, discussions were held on regional and international issues.

Ministry Announces Production of New Missile

LD1309213289 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The production of a particular surface-to-surface missile made in Iran has started with the efforts of the experts of the engineering research center of the Ministry of Construction Jihad. Announcing this in a press conference, the deputy minister of construction jihad for training and research said besides the production of this type of missile which is made for the first time in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 250 different projects are also under way to meet the defense requirements of Iran. He added a particular type of armored personnel carrier and motor boat have also been made and the new motor boat will be launched in sea tomorrow.

Soviet Tanks 'Recently' Purchased From Israel

TA1309132389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that the Islamic Republic recently purchased some Soviet tanks from Israel. Israel seized these tanks as booty during the invasion of Lebanon, and now after repairing them have sold them to the Islamic Republic.

According to this report, a man named (Reza Zanjani) is the intermediary for purchasing weapons from Israel. In addition to tanks, (Reza Zanjani) has also exported large amounts of spare parts from Israel to the Islamic Republic.

French Official To Visit Over Loan Dispute

LD1309220389 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, Sept. 13, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Director-General Francois Scheer is to visit Tehran next week for talks on ways of settling financial disputes between the two countries over a one-billion dollar loan given by Iran to the French company, Eurodif in 1974.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Scheer would also discuss with Iranian officials ways to compensate French companies for the losses they suffered as a result of the cancellation of their contracts with Iran after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran granted the French atomic energy commissary a one billion dollar loan in 1974. The French Government has so far repaid 630 million dollars of the loan following extensive talks between officials of the two countries.

Following the February's visit to Tehran of Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the two countries agreed to introduce two plenipotentiary representatives for final settlement of the disputes.

But, the negotiations came to a halt following France's withdrawal of its ambassador from Tehran and Iran's retaliation in a row over Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses'.

Settling of financial problems including the repayment of the principle and interests of the loan and the issue of losses suffered by French companies is expected to prepare the ground for expansion of mutual ties.

Another obstacle on the way of promotion of Tehran-Paris ties is France's refusal to release Anis Naccache now serving a life sentence in France for his involvement in an abortive attempt against the life of the last Iranian premier during the Shah's regime Shahpur Bakhtiar.

Following the June 1988 presidential elections in France the then French premier Jacques Chirac promised to release Naccache providing Iran mediated to secure the release of French hostages held in Lebanon, but despite the release of the French hostages, the promise has not yet been fulfilled.

Naccache led a four-man squad in an attack on Bakhtiar's residence on the outskirts of Paris in 1980. He was arrested by the police and convicted to life imprisonment.

Since last Friday, Naccache has gone on an indefinite hunger strike, demanding that his group members be brought to his prison and the French Government keep its promise of releasing him.

Editorial on Muslims' Duty Against French

NC1109054389 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Aug 89 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The Duty of the World's Muslims Vis-a-Vis the French Intervention in Lebanon"]

[Text] The deployment of the French Navy 300 km off the coast of Beirut and the further clarification of the French Government's intention to intervene in Lebanon's domestic affairs to support the Maronites and preserve Michel 'Awn's illegal regime has complicated the Lebanese problem. The situation demands that the world's Muslims pay greater attention to Lebanon, since

the main objective of political Maronism and its mentors is to dominate a country where the majority of the population is Muslim. In other words, the efforts of the Maronites, international Zionism, and their allies is to detach the Islamic country of Lebanon from the world of Islam and turn it into an Israeli ally and a satellite of world arrogance. The forces of Zionism and arrogance have been fighting the Muslims in Lebanon to achieve this goal for 14 years. However, despite the fact that they have had all the assistance they needed from their international mentors throughout these 14 years, they nevertheless feel insecure before the united front of the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon and see that they have to resort to direct intervention by world arrogance to achieve their goals. Now France has sent its fleet to the eastern Mediterranean on behalf of the United States and its European allies and thus wants to pave the way for this intervention in Lebanon's affairs.

Even though this is not the first experience of Western military intervention in Lebanon and even though the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon will no doubt humble the aggressors as they have in the past, this does not mean that the Muslims of the world should not carry out their vital duty at this sensitive juncture in Lebanon's history.

Colonel Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Lebanese army, has said that "the national Lebanese army, like the rest of the national and Islamic forces, will confront the French fleet and consider this fleet to be a military target." This threat and other serious threats by the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon against the French fleet made France withdraw three of its ships from the eastern Mediterranean coasts. However, this does not mean that the Muslims of the world should pay less attention to the French Government's hostilities. France does not have the right to interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs in any way, and the Muslims of the world should react strongly to this current intervention.

This was the purpose of the letter sent to the UN secretary general by the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Still, this is only a beginning and more has to be done. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been at the forefront of the supporters of the oppressed Lebanese nation, but the heavy oppression suffered by the Lebanese people and the exacerbation of their problems demand that all Muslims, as Islamic governments and as individuals, coordinate their actions to carry out their clear duty at this sensitive juncture in Lebanon's history. The French Government shou'd feel a threat from the Islamic countries because of its hostilities against the Lebanese Muslims. This threat can be felt only if:

1. The Islamic countries inflict coordinated military pressure on the French Government;
2. More modern and more effective weapons are placed at the disposal of the joint Islamic-national front in Lebanon by the Muslims of the world so that this front can confront the aggressors more strongly;
3. The jihad forces throughout the world of Islam attack French interests in their countries;
4. France does not feel safe from attacks by Muslim jihad forces inside French territory and in other countries.

These acts should continue until France ends all intervention in Lebanon.

This is the only effective answer to the aggressive and interfering French Government which, on behalf of the Great Satan and other satanic forces, has become hostile to the Muslims of Lebanon. Experience has shown that international forums, especially the United Nations which is under the domination of satanic powers, cannot do anything. Therefore, we should not sit and wait for these forums to act. Bullies such as the French Government only understand the language of force; the Muslims of the world must speak this language so that the aggressors regret their hostility.

Editorial Views Afghan Mujahidin Leadership

NC0909195489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Interim Government of Mujahidin in Shambles"]

[Text] The suspension of participation by the leader of Hizb-i Islamic Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, announced last week, in the Peshawar-based Afghan interim government has made the solution of problems confronting Afghanistan all the more difficut and complex.

The Afghan interim government was formed in February just after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The seven-party alliance in Peshawar, since its inception could not muster enough support to make fundamental strides towards the achievement of goals shared by all struggling forces against the Kabul regime.

However, it was sheer narrowmindedness and selfishness which led the Tehran-based eight-party alliance and some other groups not to join hands with the interim government. Moreover, the hidden tussle within the interim government for key-posts and their apathy and passive roles just now with the ulterior motive of making effective use of their military forces during a future rival power struggle are the main causes for total failure of an interim government.

Last month's Takhar tragedy which led to the killing of 30 high-ranking officials of Jamia't-i-Islamic at the hands of Hizb-i Islamic commanders intensified the crisis and the arrest of Saeed Jamal whom the Jamia't-i Islamic held mainly responsible for "Takhar tragedy, brought the two main Afghan Mujahidin groups into a new phase of more bitter rivalry and ultimately caused the expulsion of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar from the interim government. [quotation marks as published]

The Hikmatyar group though fewer in numbers than Jamia't-i Islami, is comparatively more organized since

over the past years it has had more military and financial aid from the U.S., in addition to a shower of Saudi kindnesses.

Undoubtedly the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan must have briefed Riyadh on the Islamabad discussion and the latest turn of events in the interim government. Riyadh will surely think itself more eligible to seek participation in the proposed conference than the countries like India and China with quite a remote interest.

But political observers believe that the smaller the number of participants at the proposed conference the better. They could help solve the Afghanistan dilemma better than some states who are only desirous of joining the conference merely as neighbors since they have already shared in escalation of crisis in Afghanistan—such as India who has never uttered a word of condemnation against the Soviet Union over the last decade. And even China's presence will create more hurdles in the way of resolution of the crisis.

The Soviet Union's insistence on the participation of states with the remotest link with Afghanistan reveals that it does not desire an immediate solution of the Afghanistan problem and prolonged crisis can surely reinforce the future uninterrupted influence of the Soviet Union in this oppressed Afghan country.

Editorial Comments on Pope's Visit to Lebanon

NC0909133089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "On the Pope's Visit to Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] While the Phalangists are perpetrating crimes and massacres and constantly resorting to fresh crimes, Michel 'Awn, head of the illegal Lebanese government and the person responsible for all these crimes and massacres, invites the pope, leader of the Catholics, to visit Lebanon.

It seems unlikely that the pope and the Vatican will try on this visit to do something showing that the leader of the world's Catholics supports the crimes and bloodshed in Lebanon or that they are prepared to warmly shake the hand of the Phalangist criminals in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a Vatican spokesman has said in a news conference in Rome that the pope's visit to Lebanon is being studied by the Vatican officials and that the pope himself is interested in this visit.

Whatever justification is used by the Vatican for the pope's visit, the people of that country cannot simply accept that the leader of the world's Catholics will be visiting Lebanon at the invitation of the perpetrator of these crimes and massacres and that he will be shaking blood-stained hands.

Is the pope prepared to step over the corpses of the victims of the new round of crimes in Lebanon and to shake the hand of those who are to blame? We should wait to see what the answer to this question will be. But it seems that overt and covert hands are at work to give a new face to Lebanon's events and to justify the crimes perpetrated by the savage Phalangists and Maronites.

The issue is very clear. Lebanon's political Maronism feels that it has reached the end of the road and that in view of its criminal record, the possibility for the continuation of its rule does not exist under any circumstances. Political Maronism has resorted to all possible means in order to continue its rule. But it has failed in everything and in every way.

Political Maronism and its military arm, the Phalangists, have turned to all the satanic powers in a bid to keep this cancerous situation going. They even welcomed the occupation of Lebanese territory by Israel and by the interfering multinational military forces of NATO. To top it all off, they acted as a fifth column for the occupying army, and they carried out the most treacherous unpopular missions with occupying Israel everywhere, hoping that they could use the help of the Israelis and of the other interfering forces to preserve their wretched rule. [passage omitted]

If the pope wants to visit Lebanon and the wounds of the Lebanese people, then he will be carrying out a positive humanitarian mission. Actually the pope should have visited Lebanon throughout the past disastrous years and soothed the wounds of the Lebanese people opened by the crimes of occupying Israel and the savage Phalangists. He should have sympathized with them and supported their breathtaking struggle against the occupiers and their domestic hirelings. But if this visit takes place at the invitation of the Phalangists and Michel 'Awn, he will be displaying "ill intentions" and this act will harm his international credibility.

Not only do the Phalangists and Michel 'Awn lack legality, but they are also detested by the oppressed Lebanese people. Therefore, they are naturally unsuitable hosts to the leader of the world's Catholics. [passage omitted]

If the pope has good intentions in accepting an invitation, and if he thinks the Phalangists and the Maronites respect and listen to him, then he should ask them to stop their crimes and not to obstruct the just and logical wants of the Lebanese people from materializing.

If the pope's word is accepted by France and the United States and Israel, then what could be better than for him to ask all of them to stop their crimes and mischief in Lebanon and to leave the Lebanese people completely free to choose their own path?

The pope is a clergyman, and if he respects the breathtaking struggle of the Lebanese people against the occupiers, then logically he should strive for Shaykh 'Ubayd's release—the combatant Lebanese clergyman—from the clutches of the Israeli executioner and he should join forces with the Lebanese people by condemning any kind

of kidnapping and foreign intervention and by supporting the Lebanese people's legitimate and logical wants.

Whatever their religion may be, the Lebanese people have the right to decide freely on their future and to determine the system that they want. It is Lebanon's natural right to fight against the occupier and its hirelings and to pave the way for Lebanon's victory and grandeur. This is something that the pope, as the leader of the world's Christians, should logically support and something that will be proven wrong if the pope accepts the Phalangists' invitation.

Tehran Radio Comments on Developments in Turkey

NC1109085189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" program]

[Text] The various political, military, and social developments in Turkey call for a deep assessment of the incidents in this neighboring country. U.S. experts recently proposed that a security pact be formed among Turkey, Israel, and Iraq. This proposal was undoubtedly made on the basis of a series of cooordinated steps, an assessment of which may clarify the extent of the sinister temptations which are pushing Turkey toward a vague path.

Because of its special geographic position, Turkey is a sensitive and strategic bridge between the Middle East and Europe, and the West has granted Turkey a special position in view of its vital interests. Since 1952, when Turkey joined NATO, it has always been involved in political and social developments. The important objective behind this involvement was to ensure that the Turkish people's culture conformed with the need to turn Turkey into a major military base of the West. Now more than half of NATO's military bases are situated in that country, and Western politicians have always granted priority to the popular and religious fabric in Turkey which is naturally a major factor preventing Turkey from being turned into a fully political and military outpost of the West.

It is in order to lay such foundations that, despite the fact that 99 percent of the Turks are Muslims, the secularist trend has been maintained throughout recent decades. This is at a time when this trend does not go beyond the military and political structure. The Turkish people continue to preserve their principles and historical and religious values, thus maintaining Turkey's Islamic and historical character. This is a problem which the West continues to face. The West regards Turkey from two angles. The first is that Turkey, as the southernmost NATO member, plays an important role in monitoring information from the Soviet Union. In 1987 the Heritage Foundation wrote in a report that the West acquires more than one-fourth of the information it needs on Soviet installations through the existing facilities in Turkey. But having stationed a large number of nuclear missiles in Turkey, NATO practically considers Turkey to be its primary front against the Soviet Union.

The second angle is that of Turkey's special position in the Middle East. The United States is longing to control the Middle East by using weapons such as Israel. But all the developments in the Middle East have proven that preserving Israel without regional pacts is not safe. Thus, the idea of strategic pacts, one party to which would be Israel, has existed for a long time.

In the past, the idea was to form a security belt for Israel around the Arab countries. But now this strategy has completely changed because the majority of the Arab countries which were once Israel's enemies are now Israel's friends. Therefore, today the headache for Israel and the United States is the awakening of Islam. This has had its impact on all the Middle East countries.

Turkey is of significance from two aspects as far as this is concerned. The first aspect is its domestic situation, and the second is the regional situation. The U.S. experts' proposals on the formation of strategic pacts among Iraq, Turkey, and Israel should be viewed in the context of these.

Despite the efforts that have been made so far to push Turkey toward the West and to stop the religious trend in that country, the major part of Turkish society is now returning to its religious origins. Incidents last week in Turkey's Antalya Port proved this point. After sailors of a U.S. ship insulted Muslim women in that port, a wave of indignation swept through Turkish cities, and popular protests against the unrestrained behavior of the U.S. sailors spread quickly. Undoubtedly such incidents speak of U.S. determination to spread social corruption and to weaken the religious bases. And the Muslims' reaction proved that the West has not been able to gain popularity in Turkey.

The people's religious alertness automatically proves the defeat of secular policies—policies that have gone no further than politicians and political parties.

But as for the regional aspect, U.S. hopes for Turkey's security bonds with Israel and Iraq are a little premature. Even though Turkish leaders have always smiled upon Israeli politicians, the regional political situation does not allow further maneuvers. (Israel Levin), an influential U.S. Jew, believes: We regard Turkey as a secular country that has ties with Israel. But the truth is that because of its uncontrollable social and political crises, it cannot respond to such invitations, and the efforts of the United States to create a security axis to prevent the growth of Islamic awakening is only based on political and military potentials. Thus, ignoring social and cultural potentials has always led to ambiguities in such policies.

Even though Turkey is facing problems today in its relations with Syria, nevertheless these problems cannot—on their own—be a reason for an Iraqi-Turkish

bond. Historical experience shows that an absence of full conformity between the two countries' cultural and political policies is an important factor in the vulnerability of such pacts, although there has been a rapprochement between Iraq and Turkey since 1963 because of the problem of the Kurds. But Saddam's greedy ambitions are so great that he will not agree that Turkey should have a superior role in the region. Of course Israel benefits from all this in order to strengthen its security wall.

It should be recalled that Turkish official circles have so far not reacted to these proposals.

Government Denies Harboring Turkish Opposition

LD1309111389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran denied that there are any kind of activities of groups that are in opposition to the Government of Turkey, on Iranian territory. According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, in a statement which was issued yesterday by our embassy in Ankara, it is stated: Just as the Islamic Republic of Iran has not, up to now, allowed any activities to take place against friendly and fraternal Turkey inside its own territory, from this point, as well, permission for these kinds of activities will not be given. Recently some of Turkey's newspapers claimed that members of the illegal Turkey's Workers' Party, which conduct armed activities against the government of that country, enter Turkish territory via the border regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, carrying out destructive activities, and then disperse inside these territories.

'Eyewitnesses' Report Anti-Saddam Clashes

LD1309132889 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The city of Tikrit, the hometown of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn was reportedly the scene of bloody clashes between security forces and tiribesmen sympathizing with the slain Defence Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, over the past month.

Passengers who recently left Iraq quoted eyewitnesses as saying that scores of people on either sides had been killed or wounded in Tikrit, 150 kms north of Baghdad.

The passengers say that although pro-Saddam tribesmen in conjunction with security forces had suppressed the armed struggle launched by pro-Khayrallah people after suffering heavy casualties, the situation in Tikrit and its surrounding villages was still tense.

The regime ruling over Baghdad by resorting to censorship and sealing off the city is trying to prevent the news of clashes from leaking out.

The former Iraqi defence minister was killed in a mysterious helicopter clash en route to Baghdad. Khayrallah's family holds Saddam Husayn responsible for the murder.

Since the death of Khayrallah and escalation of differences between Saddam Huseyn and Tikrit tribes, many anti-government operations have been reported such as the last May's explosion at a chemical plant, armed clashes in Baghdad and assassination of ranking Ba'th Party officials.

Pakistan

Army Chief Reaffirms Support for Government

BK1309162189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Army Chief Mirza Aslam Beg has said that the Pakistani Armed Forces fully and unitedly support the democratic system and believe in its viability. He also said that if on any occasion any fault is created in this system, the Armed Forces are capable of maintaining balance in this system. He added that the Armed Forces are committed to the government's decisions.

This Army chief made his statment while answering newsmen's questions at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. Clarifying his statement, General Beg said that the Armed Forces are not committed to any group or party; they are committed to the democratic system. If one government fails, another government could replace it. And if it fails also, new elections could be held. But the democratic system could not be given up under any circumstances.

Concerning rumors regarding a failed rebellion by certain elements of the Armed Forces, General Beg said all such rumors are totally false. He warned the people about the conspiracy of certain elements that want to hurt the new unity and understanding between the government and the Armed Forces. He did not disclose the names of these elements, but told the people to see who controls the media and agencies that spread baseless reports about the Armed Forces and about the plane crash of 17 August last year [in which General Ziaul Haq died].

Dismissing any type of intervention on behalf of the Armed Forces, Gen Mirza Aslam Beg said if the Armed Forces desired any such thing, they would have assumed power on 17 August last year. But he said they decided to restore democracy after full considerations. He added that the Armed Forces will take all necessary steps in order that the decision they made on 17 August 1988 fully remains in force.

When asked whether he believes that the entire Armed Forces were with him, Gen Beg said that although the final decision was his, it was not his decision to make

alone. It was the collective decision of the commanders, and no one in the high command of the military disagreed with it.

Answering another question, the Army chief admitted that the Armed Forces face pressure from some elements to intervene. But he said no one is so foolish as to allow the Armed Forces to give up the people's affection and goodwill, nor would someone allow the Armed Forces to go back on the decision to put the country on the path of democracy.

When asked about some politicians calling on him, Gen Beg said: Those who knew me could meet me, and I used my influence in such a manner that political confrontation did not harm democratic experience. Such intervention is not desirable in the normal situation, but the situation in the country at that time was not normal.

Regarding the situation in Sind, the Army chief said it is possible for the Army to bring the situation under control within a few weeks, if not days, but this course would not be advisable because it might do more harm than good. The Sind situation needs a political solution, and all efforts should be concentrated to find such a solution.

In a difficult situation, Gen Beg said, one should be patient, and recalled that a failure to exercise patience led to the Army takeover in 1977 [by Gen Ziaul Haq], and everyone is aware of the consequences.

Gen Beg denied that the long years of martial law have affected the professional competence of the Armed Forces, except for the fact that the then chief of the Armed Forces [Gen Ziaul Haq] was not able to give as much time to his duties in the Army as the office demanded. Because of this, he is giving all his time to his Army duties and he has planned the biggest military exercises, which are going to be held in December.

It has been possible to evolve a plan for the country's defense different from the one traditionally followed in the past and which had brought the country failure in 1965 and 1971.

Answering questions about Afghanistan, Gen Mirza Aslam Beg hoped that the outcome of the war in the country would be in favor of the mujahidin. The mujahidin have the will to fight and they have made immense sacrifices. The people of Afghanistan must be left to themselves to decide their future. The Soviet Union and the mujahidin held talks in Jeddah for the first time and subsequently in Islamabad. We are trying everything to bring the Soviet Union and the mujahidin to the negotiating table.

In reply to yet another question, he said we are in a stronger position in Siachen.

When asked about the expenditures on the scheduled December exercises, the Army chief said the Government has given 160 million rupees, out of which 100 million has been allocated for the maintenance of equipment and transport. As compared to this, India spent 3 billion rupees in its military exercises—Brasstack. Thus, our military exercise will cost much less than that of India. The exercise scheduled in December will use equipment and armaments that have been introduced into the Armed Forces, as there is need to ascertain their operational viability as well as the feasibility of the newly evolved concept that has been introduced. This will provide training to senior commanders in the handling of large forces and will help in perfecting drills and procedures both at the tactical and strategic level. The Pakistani Air Force will also be taking part in the exercise.

The briefing was attended by different journalists, observers, and columnists of various newspapers, radio, and television.

'Soviet-Made' Bomb Kills 5 in Peshawar Hotel

BK1409000289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1815 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 13 (AFP)—A bomb blast ripped through a hotel restaurant in a suburban district of this northwest Pakistan city on Wednesday killing five people and injuring 22, police said. The blast took place in an area where six camps for Afghan refugees are located.

The Soviet-made time bomb was placed near the hotel in Shabqadar District, a police source said, adding that the powerful explosion completely destroyed the building. Eleven of those injured were in serious condition, hospital sources said. Earlier police reports said three people died on the spot while 19 diners inside the restaurant were injured.

The explosion follows a brief lull in bombings around Pakistan which in the past had been blamed by Islamabad on the Afghan secret service. Kabul has denied the allegations.

The seven-party Afghan resistance alliance fighting to overthrow the government in Kabul is based in Peshawar, where many of the more than three million Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan in the past 10 years live.

On August 6 a bomb blast at a vegetable market here killed five people and injured 31 while 10 people were killed on July 4 when a minibus carrying Afghan refugees was attacked.

DAWN Stresses Need for Early Afghan Solution

BK0909073689 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "The Afghan Jigsaw Puzzle"]

[Text] Recent developments on the Afghan front call for some serious re-thinking on the part of all the parties

involved in the Southwest Asian conflict. Two fundamental premises on which the US-Pakistan Afghan policy was based have virtually collapsed. The military victory of the Mujahidin which was believed to be within grasp has proved elusive. The Afghan Interim Government (AIG) which was expected to spearhead the political liberation of Afghanistan has lost its cohesion. The Mujahidin whose valour in guerrilla warfare had won them international acclaim have failed to adapt themselves to the imperatives of set-piece battles. They could not take Jalalabad even after the Soviet troops had departed from Afghanistan. They have not succeeded in opening a second front at Qandahar either. What is now left of the great struggle for liberation is a military stalemate.

While the Moscow-backed Najibullah government remains entrenched in power in Kabul, the fighting has more or less subsided. Confrontation between the two sides periodically assumes the shape of a missile war in which civilian casualties are high while little damage is done to military installations. A measure of the Mujahidin's waning interest in fighting is the move by a number of field commanders to negotiate with the Afghan government. As a result, the military solution the Mujahidin and their backers had been striving for is nowhere in sight or being pursued with any degree of conviction. On the other hand, in the absence of a political intiative for resolving the conflict, Afghanistan remains boxed up in a state of no war, no peace. In this condition of uncertainty, the repatriation of the refugees cannot take place, nor can any programme of reconstruction and rehabilitation be launched.

Worse still, the Afghan resistance seems to have been overtaken by tribal and ethnic factionalism. The Mujahidin's strategy is now being determined more by their tribal affinities than by a broader national commitment. The in-fighting which has broken out in the IUAM's [Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin] ranks reflects this trend. It is no coincidence that Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Rabbani's Jamiat-e Eslami which have been involved in armed clashes with each other belong to different tribal groupings. The Hezb-e Eslami is dominated by the Ghilzai Pathans while the Jamiat is predominantly Tajik. The Kabul Government is also threatened by ethnic divisions and tribal exclusivity transcending affiliations derived from the established politico-ideological divide. The ruling Parcham group of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] belongs to the Durrani clan and not surprisingly it has been in contact with the National Islamic Front's Ahmad Gaylani who is also a Durrani Pathan. The rival Khalq faction, which belongs to the Ghilzai tribe, recently tried to stage a coup against Najibullah which was said to have been endorsed by Hekmatyar. In this complex situation overshadowed as it is by internecine tribal rivalries, the likelihood of Afghanistan falling a prey to growing anarchy cannot be ruled out. When that stage is reached, the task of pacification would become well nigh impossible and the whole country might fall to pieces.

As time passes, it becomes more difficult to initiate a political process for a peaceful settlement of the crisis. The various parties which at one time shared a common perception and strategic interests are now seen to be moving apart. Some members of the AIG have been calling for the dissolution of the interim government. While Mr Hekmatyar favour polls among the refugees to elect a new government, the moderates stand for a Loya Jerga [Grand Tribal Assembly] to pave the way for the return of Zahir Shah to Afghanistan to provide a focus for national reconciliation. Significantly, none of the field commanders or the Iran-based guerrillas have so far endorsed the AIG. Iran also appears to have moved closer to the Soviet position lately. It now stands for an intra-Afghan dialogue to decide the modalities of an international peace conference on Afghanistan. In these circumstances Pakistan could well be isolated if it insists on pressing for a military solution. It is advisable at this stage for Moscow and Washington to make a serious effort to negotiate an agreement on negative symmetry to stop the massive inflow of arms into Afghanistan. For their part, Pakistan and Iran could play an effective role by coordinating their policies. This would require the two to promote a dialogue among the various Afghan groups in a bid to reach a political agreement. Now, more than ever, the need for a peaceful and negotiated settlement in Afghanistan is imperative.

Article Reviews Political Challenges, U.S. Role

BK0809162089 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Aug 89 p 4

[Commentary by V.D. Chopra entitled: "Dual Power and Stability in Pakistan"]

[Text] Pakistan's transition to democracy has thrown up a large number of problems—growing challenges to the theocratic concept of a nation state, struggle between the popularly elected Prime Minister and the militarised power structure for hegemony and above all the growing chasm between the dominant Punjabi nationality and other nationalities, Sindhis, Baluch and Pushtuns. In fact a new scenario of conflict between the three main power centres, popularly elected government, the President and the Army and the ruling Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and Islami Jamhoori Ittehad has begun to surface itself. In the midst of these changes, the most striking feature of the current situation in Pakistan is that foreign interference, from Washington in particular, has again begun to grow rapidly. This will have its own chain reaction on Pakistan's relations with the neighbours, India and Afghanistan in particular. That being the position, Pakistan's role in the forthcoming Non-Aligned Summit at Belgrade will have to be watched carefully. Will Pakistan strive to spearhead the rightwing trends in the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and seek to dilute its main thrust and that too at a time when the NAM is entering a new phase in its evolution with changes in the equation between the two super-powers, the Soviet Union and the United States?

A close look at the internal and external developments leaves no doubt that Washington's pressure on Islamabad in the recent months has enormously increased. After the recent visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Islamabad, American Ambassador Robert Oakley, who replaced Mr Arnold Raphel, one of the victims of the August 17, 1988 plane crash along with Zia and senior military officers of Pakistan, is reported to have told a Pakistani journalist that in negotiations with India "Pakistan should take a tough stance and only then would India respond with concessions". He did not leave at that. He gave this advice to Pakistan on the basis of American experience of dealing with the Soviet Union.

However, there is something more disturbing than this "friendly" advice. He has suggested that the PPP leadership should take the opposition into "confidence on its negotiations with India". This suggestion has been put forward at a time when the extreme right wing forces in Pakistan have opened a multi-pronged attack on the PPP and its leadership. All these facts have been widely reported in the mass media of Pakistan. This shows that foreign interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan has again begun to assume a new dimension. The crux of the matter is that the US diplomats have been traditionally seen in Pakistan as powerful factors, who not only influence the internal and external policies of the country but are "capable of toppling governments, getting ministers appointed and reversing policies" as a leading Pakistani journalist has put it.

It is precisely in this context that the recent controversy between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan over the top appointments in the defence forces needs to be seen. As a matter of fact the conflict between the President and the Prime Minister over these appointments has raised a basic question—the powers of a popularly elected government and the President in the Constitution of Pakistan.

At the moment the bone of contention between the two is over the status of Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey. While the Prime Minister has taken the position that Admiral Sirohey's term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) expired on August 14, according to the interpretation of the constitution of Defence Ministry, the position taken by the President is that it was in the exercise of his discretionary power that he appointed Admiral Sirohey as JCSC chairman with effect from November 10, 1988 and this post is an ensured appointment for three years. This clearly brings out two different interpretations being given to the Constitution, one by the Prime Minister and the other by the President. Beneath this controversy in fact is concealed the nature of duality of power structure in Pakistan. Nonetheless, it does manifest clearly the new power struggle going on in Pakistan, a struggle in which Washington has its own stakes.

It is in this context that the controversy over the tragic end of General Zia needs to be seen. Mr Ijazul Haq, elder son of the late General Zia has accused the Bhutto government of creating confusion regarding his father's "assassination". Various theories are being debated in Pakistan and each one of them has a political direction. A few of these which have been mentioned are Afghanistan's intelligence service KHAD, the KGB, Mortaza Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister's brother and reputed head of the Al Zulfiqar organisation and so on and so forth.

What is most intriguing is that at one stage the US State Department took the position that there was no reason to suspect that the crash had been caused by anything other than mechanical failure. However, in hearings which took place three months ago, the present US ambassador to Pakistan, according to the GUARDIAN, testified that in view of the fact that the "role of the Pakistan army would be of utmost importance in determining the future of Pakistan, we wanted to do everything to create stability". But at the Congressional insistence, an FBI team is now visiting Pakistan. This means that Washington too has begun to make a fresh probe into the crash, which led to the tragic end of General Zia. Why this new investigation? Why General Zia's son has begun to talk about the assassination of his father? Is there any link between these developments? Are these moves connected with the developments in and around Pakistan, particularly the Afghanistan problem? No one can answer these questions, though they do arise in an objective mind.

Let us examine this controversy from another angle. In Pakistan Shia-Sunni conflict in recent years has become acute, primarily due to the concept of a theocratic state. There are perhaps 15 million Shias in Pakistan as against 90 million Sunnis. Shias in Pakistan were far from happy with the policy of "Islamisation" of Pakistan as being implemented by General Zia. In fact the Shia factor became a threat to Zia's Afghanistan policy to some degree. In the summer of 1987 the Pushtun Shias living in Kurram areas took the position that they would not allow the Afghan rebels to pass through their territory because Islamabad was planning to hand over their areas to the Afghan Mujahidin. The Pakistan army under General Zia's orders suppressed the demonstrations organised by the Shias.

Though Hussain al-Hussaini, the leader of the Pakistani Shiites, supported Zia's policy on the Afghan problem, he could not remain indifferent to the fate of the Shias. During his frequent trips to Tehran and meetings with the Iranian leaders, Al-Hussaini pleaded with the Iranians "to defend Shias in Pakistan". As a result, in early August 1988 an unknown person shot Al-Hussaini dead at close range on the threshold of his house in Peshawar and disappeared. The Pakistani Shiites exploded in indignation, accusing the Sunnis of having killed him on orders of Ziaul Haq.

When the communal violence came to a head two weeks after this assassination, the plane carrying Zia crashed. That is why one of the versions of the causes of that crash was the assumption that it was an act of revenge by the Shiites. One has also to bear in mind that according to a

testimony of air force representatives of Pakistan, one of the pilots of the presidential plane was a Shiite fanatic.

The involvement of the army in the death of Ziaul Haq cannot be completely ruled out either. A section of the armed forces of Pakistan being professional are interested in the unity and sovereignty of their country. In the eighties the Pakistani special services unfolded several plots, whose participants were sentenced to 14-25 years in jail. It is also a known fact that during the last elections PPP polled a large number of votes in the cantonment areas of Pakistan, including in Punjab.

Al Zulfikar, a militant organisation, was also politically opposed to the Zia military regime. It was set up by the brothers of Benazir Bhutto. In 1981 Murtaza and Shahnawaz Bhutto engineered a hijacking of a Pakistani military plane in an attempt to free from prison several dozens of their supporters. In 1986 one of the brothers—Shahnawaz—died mysteriously in Nice in Southern France. One of the versions of his death was that Shahnawaz had fallen victim to Zia's revenge.

What is most intriguing is that a group of 25 FBI officials has now begun investigations of the causes that led to the air crash on August 17, last, almost one year after the tragedy. And this group reached Pakistan soon after Benazir Bhutto's visit to Washington.

All these developments show that Pakistan's transition to democracy has still to cross many hurdles, both internal and external. In this sense Ms Benazir Bhutto is on the crossroads.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Opens All-Party Conference

BK1409033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has indicated his willingness to consider any changes in the Constitution to help solve the present crisis in the country. Opening the all-party conference in Colombo yesterday, he called for searching new solutions to the problem facing the island nation. Mr Premadasa appealed to those outside the democratic process to return to the mainstream; 21 political parties and groups attended the conference, which was convened to restore peace and normalcy in the island. The JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] did not take part in the conference. Our correspondent Plabon Majumder reports that a 10-day schedule was drawn up for consultation between the Sri Lankan president and the political parties and groups attending the conference. The conference will be reconvened on the 12th of next month.

Meanwhile, JVP extremists have set ablaze a number of government buildings as part of their new civil disobedience movement. Agency reports quoting official sources say at least 23 persons hav continuing violence in the island natio 24 hours.

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Conference Proceedings R

Service

BK1309112789 Colombo Internationa in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 89

n at the BMICH
Conference Hall]
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ous proposals that
crisis.

[Text] The all-party conference bega [Bandaranaike Memorial Internationa in Colombo this morning. President P vened this meeting to consider the vari had been made to resolve the present

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collective search
present crisis. He
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sincerity, mutual
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Welcoming the delegates, President P that the all-party conference will be for practical and viable solutions to th added that in this exercise we shall advantage for ourself, but work with trust, and understanding. The presi welcomed the entire country partici logue and on the peace initiative so th of issues in focus will be thorough pointed out that the program for con worked out as a dialogue will start imm meeting. This could involve consult among all political parties and groups

10 days for this
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our country.

The president has already set apart consultation. President Premadasa s national consensus which has develo several current issues of concern. Thes into the mainstream of politics tho today outside the democratic proces lence; restoring peace and normalcy; r ical, economic, and administrative equal rights for all people regardless class, creed or community; and elimin nomic disparities that still remain in

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and the rule of law.

The president said that the all-party c convened for three purposes: Firstly darity on the collective search for a v problems of violence and unrest in ondly, to consider and endorse the m emerged during the informal consul leaders; and thirdly to make a determi effort to bring those who are outside politics into the democratic process t to strengthen the civil administration

national relations.
that 70 delegates
ttended the confer-
he next meeting of
d on the 12th of

The adviser to the president on inter Bradman Weerakoon, told newsmen from 21 political parties and groups a ence. The president announced that t the all-party conference will be hel October at 1000 [0430 GMT].

Talks With JVP on Joining Conference Continue

BK1409111389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Very sensitive negotiations are going on to draw the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] to the all-party conference [APC], Mr Bradman Weerakoon, the president's advisor on international affairs, said yesterday.

Answering a barrage of questions about the absence of the JVP at yesterday's inauguration, Mr Weerakoon, told the press he was not in a position to divulge any details.

Asked about political contacts through whom the invitation was channeled, he said he was not in a position to answer that question. He added that the president is specially interested in getting the JVP to join the peace process.

Mr Weerakoon said the JVP could join at any stage; the APC talks are continuing till 12 October and even after that if the delegates wished. Yesterday's meeting was only the formal inauguration, he said. Informal talks will follow, and Mr Weerakoon called them, intense discussions.

Wijeratne Reports IPKF To Declare Cease-Fire

BK1409062489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 14 (AFP)—Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka will shortly declare an open-ended cease-fire in the fight against dominant Tamil guerrillas, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne announced here Thursday [14 September].

He said the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) battling to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for nearly two years will observe a cease-fire as part of an agreement being reached between Colombo and New Delhi.

Mr Wijeratne said an agreement between the two countries will be signed "in a day or two" to secure a total withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated north east.

Indian Force Accused of 'Massacring' 15 Civilians

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[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group accused Indian troops of massacring 15 civilians in a retaliatory attack in northeastern Sri Lanka Wednesday, after it ambushed and killed four soldiers.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) fired indiscriminately at about 100 civilians rounded up after the group's attack on troops in Kattaparitchan village.

An LTTE spokesman here said the tigers lost two of their own men in the attack on Wednesday and killed four IPKF soldiers.

Indian officials here said they had no information about the incident and officials of the Northeastern Provincial Administration were not immediately available for comment. [passage omitted]

2 LTTE 'Militants,' 4 Indian Soldiers Killed

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[Excerpts] In Sri Lanka, a 10-day schedule has been drawn up starting from Monday [18 September] for consultations between the Sri Lankan president and political parties and groups attending the all-party conference which began in Colombo this morning. [passage omitted]

In other developments, two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were killed and four apprehended in separate encounters with the peacekeeping force [PKF] in Northeastern province. Two encounters took place in the Vavuniya and Batticaloa sectors.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that in the continuing operations against the militants in Muttur near Trincomalee, four PKF personnel, including two JCO's [junior commissioned officers], were killed.